



Civil Rights Law

Course Description

This course focuses on the rights of all Americans under the federal and state Constitutions and laws. The course surveys the framework of these rights and goes into many specifics, including the rights to equal protection, due process, and freedom of religion. The course also touches on some other fundamental rights, including rights under the First Amendment.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Differentiate among levels of scrutiny a court will employ when dealing with a discriminatory law or government action;
- Articulate the difference between the 14th Amendment's Due Process Clause and Equal Protection Clause;
- Distinguish between the 5th Amendment's Due Process Clause and the 14th Amendment's Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses;
- Discuss the federal protections against religious discrimination;
- Use the Supreme Court's three-factor test to consider whether a federal statute grants a claimant an enforceable right for a Section 1983 action.

Final Exam

Grades and credit recommendations are based solely on a final exam. When students are ready to take the final exam, they should register for a LawShelf account (or simply log in, for those with existing accounts). Go to the video-course page and click "Take the Final Exam" and pay the exam fee, where applicable. Students will be given instructions on how to take the exam. All exams are proctored by the Voice Proctor® proctoring system. An overview of the system is [provided here](#) and it requires no training or learning curve. Grades of 70% or above are considered passing grades and qualify for recommended transfer credit.

The final exam is based on the video course modules. Additional resources detailed in this syllabus are helpful for background and for building greater understanding of the course materials. Inquiries can be made through the LawShelf Contact form on our website by clicking the "email us" button that appears at the bottom of most LawShelf pages. Transcripts can be ordered via Parchment, as detailed on our website.

Case Studies

Many LawShelf video courses include case studies. These do not necessarily teach new material but are meant to demonstrate how the materials covered in the course are applied by various courts. Concepts covered in the case studies are covered on the final exam, so make sure to watch the case studies before taking the exam. However, it is unnecessary to memorize the facts and details of the cases covered in these case studies.

Self-Quizzes

Video-course modules and case studies feature self-quizzes that consist of practice questions on the materials covered in the videos. These questions are presented for the benefit of the student and are **important to review before taking the final exam** because they are similar in style and substance to the questions on the final exam. These quizzes are not graded or monitored and there is no record of how students answer these questions. Students may answer these questions as many times as they like and are encouraged to keep re-taking the quizzes until they have mastered all the questions.

Study Guide

Introductory Videos

These videos provide background to help students better understand the main parts of the course, which are the video-course modules below.

The Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments: The Requirements of Procedural Due Process
<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/the-fifth-and-fourteenth-amendments-the-requirements-of-procedural-due-process/>

The Free Exercise Clause
<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/the-free-exercise-clause/>

New Life for the Equal Rights Amendment
<https://lawshelf.com/blogentryview/new-life-for-the-equal-rights-amendment/>

Asian-American Groups Accuse Harvard of Discrimination in Admissions
<https://lawshelf.com/blogentryview/asian-american-groups-accuse-harvard-of-discrimination-in-admissions/>

The Due Process Rights of Illegal Entrants to the United States
<https://lawshelf.com/blogentryview/the-due-process-rights-of-illegal-entrants-to-the-united-states/>

Courseware Readings

These courseware readings provide background to help students better understand the main parts of the course, which are the video-course modules below.

Read the following sections of “Foundations of Law” courseware:

Constitutional Law (including all subchapters):

- Due Process of Law
- Equal Protection

Video Course Modules

These videos constitute the main part of the course and are they sources of the questions on the final exam.

Civil Rights Law Course Overview Video

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursescontentview/civil-rights>

Introduction to Civil Rights - Module 1 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/an-introduction-to-civil-rights-module-1-of-5>

Equal Protection - Module 2 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/equal-protection-module-2-of-5>

Due Process and Civil Rights - Module 3 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/due-process-and-civil-rights-module-3-of-5>

Religious Discrimination - Module 4 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/religious-discrimination-module-4-of-5>

Suing for a Civil Rights Violation - Module 5 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/suing-for-a-civil-rights-violation-module-5-of-5>

Case Study: Boston Parent Coalition for Academic Excellence Corp. v. School Committee of the City of Boston

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/case-study-boston-parent-coalition-for-academic-excellence-corp-v-school-committee-of-the-city-of-boston>

Case Study: Salau v. Denton

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/case-study-salau-v-denton>

Supplemental Suggested Reading

These materials enable students to achieve a deeper understanding of the course materials and in applying the course to real-life situations

“Constitution Annotated” Articles on the 14th Amendment from congress.gov:

<https://constitution.congress.gov/browse/amendment-14/>

(All articles under Due Process, Fundamental Rights, Equal Protection and Classifications)