

GOALS:

The Bill of Rights and Education course has the goal of showing the impact the Bill of Rights has had on development of American education.

OBJECTIVES:

Students should be able to:

1. Identify major issues confronting both students and teachers relating to the Bill of Rights;
2. Know important Supreme Court cases dealing with schools and the Bill of Rights;
3. Discuss their own experiences as students and teachers that relate to the Bill of Rights;
4. Be knowledgeable about recent court cases that may have a major impact on American schools.

SYLLABUS:

Week I: Schools and the First Amendment

Religion: How do the ‘establishment clause’ and the “free exercise clause” impact religious behavior in public schools – Flag salute, prayer in school, Amish home schooling, Pledge of Allegiance cases, graduation prayers.

Week II: Speech

Pure speech, symbolic speech, speech plus
Rights of students, rights of teachers – Hazelwood East Case, *Tinker vs. DesMoines*

Week III: Fourth Amendment

Search and Seizure: Rights of students to privacy, what may be searched at school.

Week IV: Rights of Handicapped and Teacher Tenure

Close look at Rights of Handicapped laws in Missouri public schools
Teacher tenure laws in Missouri public schools

Week V: Desegregation and the Public Schools

Liddell vs. St. Louis Public Schools

Week VI

- A) Affirmative Action: where it stands now
- B) The schools, the First Amendment, the new technology (Internet), censorship

Week VII

Present papers

Week VIII

Present papers

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR RESEARCH:

- Home Schooling
- The Internet
- Censorship of Library Books
- Prayer in School Amendments
- Affirmative Action – pros/cons
- End of School Desegregation Program
- Gender Equity:
 - Virginia Military Institute – admission of women
 - Citadel – admission of women
 - Title IX – sports for girls