

POS 316: The Politics of Abortion

Summer III, 2008: Dr. Jelen

Contact Information:

Use Webcampus Mail

Required Texts:

Abortion: The Clash of Absolutes Laurence Tribe

Course packet: The Politics of Abortion

Purchase text and course packet from UNLV bookstore: 702-895-3290

Objective:

The purpose of this course is to examine various aspects of American politics through the prism of the abortion issue. Ethical, legal, institutional, and behavioral aspects of abortion politics will be considered. This course is not intended to support any particular position on the issue of legalized abortion, but to enable the student to attain critical appreciation of a variety of perspectives.

Technology:

View the Lectures online from within the course on the dates specified below. The links to the videos are located in the Media Library tool. You must have Real Player on your computer to view the video lectures. You may download this free program from <http://www.real.com/>

Grading:

There will be an essay final exam, distributed on August 12 at 8:00 am PDT, and due August 15, at 5:00 pm PDT. The final exam counts for 75% of student's final grade. 25% of the student's final grade will be based on active and thoughtful participation in scheduled online discussions. Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings prior to viewing the lectures, to view the lectures on or before the scheduled viewing dates, and to participate in on-line discussions within 48 hours of the scheduled lecture viewing.

Class Participation Policies:

Any attempt at academic dishonest results in failure of the entire course. This includes, but is not limited to, receiving outside assistance on exams, or using unattributed material from other sources.

Exceptions to exam deadlines will only be granted in cases of documented medical or bereavement considerations.

Course Schedule;

I. Introduction: Abortion and “Rights Talk” July 14. View Lecture 1.

Cook, et. al. “Abortion and American Politics” (Coursepack) ; Tribe, 1.

II. Abortion in Historical and Comparative Perspective. July 16. View Lecture 2.

Tribe, 3-4; Jelen and Wilcox, “Continuity and Change in Abortion Politics in Poland and the U.S.” (coursepack)

III. Is There a Constitutional Right to Privacy? July 18. View Lecture 3

Tribe, 5.

IV. Does the Constitution Require Legal Abortion. July 21. View Lecture 4.

Tribe, 2.

V. Religion and Abortion. July 23. View Lecture 5

Cook, et. al. “Religion and Abortion Attitudes (coursepack)

VI. Is the Fetus a Person? Does it matter? July 25; View Lecture 6.

Tribe, 6.

VII. The Abortion Debate at the Activist Level. July 28: View Lecture 7.

Tribe, 7-8.

VIII. Public Opinion and Abortion. July 30: View Lecture 8

Cook, et. al. “The Subjective Bases of Abortion Attitudes”

Cook, et. al. “The Electoral Politics of Abortion

Cook, et. al. “Issue Voting in Gubernatorial Elections: Abortion and Post-Webster Politics.”

Abramowitz, “It’s Abortion, Stupid: Policy Voting in the 1992 Presidential Election,”

Jelen and Wilcox, “Causes and Consequences of Public Attitudes Toward Abortion,”

All readings for this topic in coursepack.

IX. Abortion and Contemporary U.S. Politics: August 4: View Lecture 9.

Tribe, 9

Adams, "Abortion: Evidence of Issue Evolution" (coursepack)

X. The Future of Abortion Politics: August 6. View Lecture 10

Tribe, 10.

Final Exam: Distributed Tuesday, August 12, 8:00 am PDT; due Friday, August 15, 5:00 pm PDT.