

FIRST AMENDMENT

Ronald Turner

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Office Hours: By Appointment

I. *Course Description:* This course focuses on the First Amendment to the United States Constitution with special emphasis on judicial interpretation and application of the amendment's "the freedom of speech" provision. Several classes will be reserved toward the end of the semester for examination and discussion of the amendment's Religion Clauses prohibiting governmental establishment of religion and the free exercise thereof.

II. *Required Text:* Geoffrey R. Stone, et al., *The First Amendment* (Aspen, 6th edition 2020).

III. *Method of Instruction:* The primary method of instruction and review of assigned materials will be discussion by and between the professor and class participants, and students will be called on and asked questions concerning the readings. Each student must be prepared for each and every class and student participation is expected. Students are responsible for all of the assigned readings, including parts of assignments that are not specifically discussed in class.

IV. *Attendance:* The Law Center's attendance policy applies and any student violating that policy by failing to attend at least eighty (80) percent of class sessions will be dropped from the course.

V. *Preferred Name And Pronoun.* I will gladly honor your request to address you in a manner that corresponds to your identity. Please feel free to advise me of your preferred name and pronoun, including non-binary ones such as they/them/their.

VI. *Grading:* The final grade in this class will be based on an open-book examination to be given at a time and location scheduled by the Law Center. Students may use their casebooks, notes, and any outlines prepared for this course; no commercially prepared materials may be used during the examination. The examination will be discussed in greater detail later in the semester and is subject to the official University of Houston Law Center grade curve. A student's final grade may be adjusted upward in recognition of exceptional classroom contributions (with an emphasis on quality and not quantity) and may be adjusted downward for lack of preparedness.

VII. *Assignments:* Specific assignments will be posted on my homepage. These assignments may be altered based upon the amount of material covered in class, and any such alteration will be announced.

VIII. *Accommodating Students With Disabilities:* The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

requires that the University of Houston make reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities as defined by and within the meaning of the statute. Students who have questions about or feel that they need assistance under the ADA should contact Student Services.

IX. *Counseling And Psychological Services:* The University of Houston's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad or hopeless. You can reach CAPS at www.uh.edu/caps and by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you know someone who is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the "Let's Talk" program (http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html), a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus.

X. *Confidential Reporting Of Discrimination And Sexual Misconduct.* The University of Houston is committed to maintaining and strengthening an educational, working and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from discrimination and sexual misconduct. If you have experienced an incident of discrimination or sexual misconduct, there is a confidential reporting process available to you. For more information, please refer to the University system's Anti-Discrimination Policy SAM 01.D.07 and Sexual Misconduct Policy SAM 01.D.08, available here:

<http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/uhs-policies/sams/01-general-information/index.php>

http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/_docs/sam/01/1d7.pdf (antidiscrimination)

http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/_docs/sam/01/1d8.pdf (sexual misconduct)

Please be aware that under the sexual misconduct policy, SAM 01.D.08, faculty are required to report to the University any information received regarding sexual misconduct as defined in the policy. Please note that the reporting obligations under the sexual misconduct policy reach to employees and students. Also, as a required reporting party, Law Center employees and faculty members are not a confidential resource.