While it’s not true we’re going to hell in a hand basket, it is true that as a nation we face staggering problems—ones more serious than ever in our divisive and increasingly ineffectual political climate.

Still, with our combined and awesome intellects we might actually figure out some answers. Or maybe not—but we can still enjoy ourselves in this class: We’ll read provocative books and articles, enjoy spirited (but civil) debate, and learn from one another.

**Assigned Reading:**

Albert Woodfox, *Solitary*

Carol Anderson, *One Person, No Vote* & *The Impact of Voter Suppression, 2018*

Dionne, Jr., Norman J. Orstein, & Thomas E. Mann, *One Nation After Trump 2017*, N.Y.: St. Martin’s Griffin, 2017


**Note:** Cases we will brief in class and articles I assign are easily accessible on the Internet.

**Grading**

Class participation and attendance 25%

Mid-term Exam........................................35%

Final Exam ............................................. 40%

**SOME NO-NOS:** Attendance is absolutely crucial, and you’ll be docked a full grade for every three absences. Plus, I’m heartless: my rule applies no matter how tear-jerking your excuse! (Grr-r-r-r) Also, puh-leeze don’t use your l-phones during class. I won’t not snatch your l-phones out of your hands, or hurl you down the stairwell. BUT be forewarned: I see you and I take note.

**HOW TO TRACK ME DOWN:** That’s not hard. My office is on the seventh floor (725), and I’ll be there on Tuesday and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Please drop by whenever you have a question or just want to chat. You can also reach me via e-mail: eahull47@hotmail.com, or by phone: (973) 353-5105.
**SCHEDULE**

**PART ONE: RIGHTS OF CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS**

**READ:** *Solitary*


**Read Assigned Articles** [here](https://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2013/03/how-americans-lost-the-right-to-counsel-50-years-after-gideon/273433/)


**DEATH PENALTY** **Read:** *Wrong on All Counts* (to be supplied) **Brief:** *Furman v. Ga.; Gregg v. Ga.;McCleskey v. Kemp; Herrera v. Ill; Roper v. Simmons; Ky. V. La.; Hall v. Fla.; Bucklew v. Precythe; Atkins v. Va* Read Assigned Articles.


**THE RIGHTS OF EX-FELONS**

[Links are provided](https://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/us_5df349ace4b0deb78b51c2ab?ncid=newsltushpmgnews)

**PART TWO: VOTER SUPPRESSION**

**Read:** *One Person, No Vote*


PART THREE: OUR CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE

Read: Dionne, Ornstein, & Mann, One Nation After Trump.

Brief: U.S. v. Nixon; Clinton v. Jones; other cases to be announced.

https://apple.news/AAdxxu0KhRkal4SRcphM_Cg

David Leonhardt, August 23, 2019 Don’t kill the filibuster

David Leonhardt November 13, 2019 Subject: If we can’t agree, can we coexist?
https://apple.news/AO6ScWwM9RPmAPplWZAFSdw

The Hill September 17, 2019 Partisan divisions sharpen as independent voters fade
https://nyti.ms/2qd1Vlx

A Nation Coming Apart: Freakonomics November 28, 2019 How to Change Your Mind –

https://truthout.org/articles/charles-koch-is-funding-a-campaign-to-kill-food-stamps-and-medicaid/

New York Times, August 9, 2019 | Quiz: Let Us Predict Whether You’re a Democrat or a Republican
https://nyti.ms/2M5sgSp
OPTIONAL MID-TERM EXAMINATION

PART FOUR: HOW WE'RE FAILING OUR KIDS

Read: Putnam, Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis


Washingtonpost.com; : December 30, 2019 “ Today’s Opinions: 2019 was the year of inequality
Study Shows Income Gap Between Rich and Poor Keeps Growing, With Deadly Effects

The Boston Globe Sept. 15, 2019 “Neighboring schools, different worlds | The Great Divide


https://nyti.ms/2H5BUjM

Part Five: Guns


https://www.nybooks.com/daily/2019/09/05/the-rights-of-guns/?utm

MSM: “San Francisco board passes resolution labeling NRA ‘domestic terrorist organization’
http://a.msn.com/01/en-us/AAGNz0O?ocid=se

The Washington Post, Sept. 3, 2019.” Today’s Opinions: America doesn’t just have a gun crisis. It has a culture crisis.
