Hi there,

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.
When: Sep 2, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting: https://rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lf-GgqTojGtwJYeYv5F6OnYnDnWbQZzLc

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Civil Liberties: Letter to My class

Fall, 2020

Dr. Hull

To My Dear Students:

You know the old Chinese wish --“may you live in interesting times”? Well, forget that! You do indeed live in interesting times, and enough already! My thoughts go out to all of you in this tumultuous time when you, of course, worry what your future holds. Old as I am, however (and I’m as old as the rocks), and having seen so much in my long life, of this I’m sure: This nasty pandemic will pass, you’ll go on to graduate, obtain satisfying careers and rich, purposeful lives; in time
you’ll drive your grandchildren crazy every time you tell them, yet again, about how you survived the Great Plague.

Plus, we’re facing a presidential election like none we’ve ever witnessed before: Our country is in very bad shape and our institutional integrity in serious jeopardy, so we’re counting on you, members of a remarkable generation, to set things right!

Speaking of abnormalities, this Civil Liberties class will also be more abnormal than usual. For one thing, you have the dubious honor of being taught by a professor who has no equal when it comes to technological illiteracy. I have spent the summer attempting to learn ZOOM (and please don’t be the 100th person to tell me it’s so simple even an idiot can use it). Still, I beg you to bear with me—and help me out whenever possible. I will miss subjecting you to my usual classroom style—i.e., waving my arms, gesticulating wildly, writing indecipherably on the black board. I’ll especially miss the chance to know you as well as I would were we meeting in person—although here are some ways we can still interact beyond our Zoom classroom.

1. I’ll be teaching our class from the relatively large Political Science Conference Room on the 7th floor of Hill Hall. Two or three of you could join me there during this class, assuming the Administration permits, and we can easily maintain a six foot distance from one another—and wear our masks. Ideally different people would come to each class so I could get to know all of you. I will also remain in this room for two hours after each class, so if you wish to visit or call me during this time I would be delighted.

2. I can also meet you out doors, at least until the cold weather skulks in. We can sit on a bench in Samuels Square, for instance
(outside Robeson Center), or have a cup of coffee in the atrium outside Whole Foods.

3. You can call me anytime (make that any time before 9 p.m. or after 6 a.m.—er, 7 a.m.): 201-341-6288; you can also text me or e-mail me at eahull47@hotmail.com. Remember, you’re not inconveniencing me: getting to know you and assisting you in any way I can is my pleasure.

We’ll trudge along together---studying Civil Liberties, briefing cases, enjoying one another, sharing our war stories and even the moments of joy that catch us by surprise.

Onward!

Lisa Hull

SYLLABUS FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

Recent headlines, The New York Times: “Supreme Court Okays Refugee Ban;” “Court Won’t Touch Gerrymandering;” “First Amendment Prohibits Limitations on Campaign Spending;” For better or worse, and to an extent unparalleled in any other country, almost every important social and political conflict in the United States ultimately reaches the Supreme Court for resolution.

In this class we shall “brief” cases involving our civil liberties, and discuss a number of issues: Are the courts the proper tribunals for resolving our most explosive issues? In this tension-infused post 9-11 world will the Supreme Court be able to balance the sometimes competing claims of freedom and security? In a civilization increasingly characterized by global tensions and technological “revolutions,” is our Constitution still a viable document?

**WRITING INTENSIVE:** This class is a Writing Intensive one, meaning that I will require two short papers from every one of you (unless you’ve already
fulfilled your WI requirements). Since the best way to improve one’s writing is to revise and revise again, I’ll read each paper, return it for revisions, and then read it again. I’ll talk to you early in the semester about your topics, and offer you suggestions as we go along.

**Required Reading:**


3. Lisa Belkin, *Show Me a Hero*, most recent edition; Back Bay Books/ Little Brown


**Course Requirements:**

There will be two mid-term exams (the second one is optional), a final exam, and two short papers due. It is crucial that you attend class regularly (or, more aptly, that you *log in* regularly), and students will be docked one grade point for every three absences. Please call-in on time and be prepared (because, hee hee, I can and will call on you *at any time*).

**Grading:** (a) two mid-term exams (one optional): 25%; (b) class papers: 25 %; participation and preparedness:15%; (d) final exam: 35%.

**How to Track me down:** I’m usually in my office—Hill Hall, Room 725. You can also e-mail me: eahull47@hotmail.com. Please come see me---I’ll enjoy getting to know you. **PLEASE SEE ABOVE “LETTER TO STUDENTS” FOR MORE DETAILS.**

**SCHEDULE:**

**ONE: CIVIL RIGHTS: DISCRIMINATION**
**Brief:** Dred Scott v. Sanford; Plessy v. Ferguson; Sweatt v. Painter; Brown v. Bd. of Ed.; Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg.; Loving v. Va.; Shelley v. Kraemer; Burton v. Wilmington Parking Authority; Moose Lodge v. Irvis; Texas Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs v. Inclusive Communities Project; Schuette v. BAMN

**READ:** Lisa Belkin, Show Me a Hero

**First paper due**

**TWO: Rights of Other “Suspect” and “Sensitive” Groups:**


**MID-TERM EXAM**

**Revisions of First Paper due**

**THREE: Voting Rights**


**FOUR: Religious Exercise and Establishment**


**OPTIONAL MID-TERM**

**FIVE: Freedom of Speech, Assembly, and Association**


**Second Paper Due**

**SIX: Freedom of the Press**


**SEVEN: THE Rights of the Criminally Accused**


**Read:** Michelle Alexander. *The New Jim Crow*
Revisions of second paper due

FINAL EXAMINATION