COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course is to introduce students to a range of current criminal, civil, and constitutional issues. We will evaluate the legal, social, cultural, ethical and political implications of these controversial concerns. We will cover topics ranging from the right to protest, the clash between the First and Second Amendments, appropriate versus inappropriate police responses to protests, and government responses and regulation of protests; the internet, who owns it, who should regulate its use, censorship and web content, government and private regulation of is travelers; the right of privacy, its historical roots, whether it really exists in the 21st century, who has the right to be let alone, and what to expect next; gene technology, how it’s legitimate uses, legal, ethical, and moral considerations surrounding gene technology, and the appropriate regulation of gene technology; and other topics selected for study. Selected readings will frame the legal problems on center stage, allowing us to dissect the multiple layers of each issue. In order to fully explore these topics, we will consider, discuss, and analyze all sides and various arguments in favor of and in opposition of the selected questions. We will mostly debate these issues by analyzing legal opinions, commentaries, readings as assigned, your research, and academic journals. Students will ultimately become familiar with the intricacies of a myriad of moral, ethical, legal, and social dilemmas which have faced, currently face, and will face our society, our nation, and the world.

CLASS FORMAT
All students are expected to be prepared every class session as students will be called upon randomly to lead and participate in class discussions. The class will be guided by the professor, but student participation is a key element of the class and will weigh heavily in your grade.

REQUIRED BOOKS

There is no required text for this course. Course materials will be provided on ELMS, during lectures, through videos, newspapers, magazines, and from the internet. All students will be expected to have read the assigned materials before class. Again, this will be considered as part of your class participation.

STATEMENT ON CLASSROOM CLIMATE

The success of this class is dependent not only on my abilities and talents as an instructor to communicate information and ideas, but also on our ability as a class to work together to create an environment conducive to active learning. As a department and university, we expect the faculty and students to be prepared for class and to be actively engaged in the classroom activities. Unfortunately, disruptive behaviors in the classroom cheat other students of opportunities to learn. The University of Maryland’s Code of Academic Integrity defines classroom disruption as “behavior a reasonable person would view as substantially or repeatedly interfering with the conduct of a class.” Examples include coming late to class, repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom without authorization, excessive talking, persisting in speaking without being recognized, allowing cell phones to ring, talking on a cell phone, reading text messages, sending text messages, or using a cell phone or any other electronic device for any purpose. None of this behavior will be tolerated.

Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one another, the teaching assistants or with me will be subject to being referred to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In this class, students will be allowed to use their personal computers and tablets to take class notes. All cell phones are to be turned off in class. If these devices are seen and/or used during class, the student(s) will be asked to leave the class immediately. If these devices are seen and/or used during an exam, the exam will be collected from the student and the student will no longer be allowed to continue taking the exam. The exam score will be noted as 0.

CLASS CANCELLATIONS

In the course outline you will find dates where classes have been identified as cancelled. If for any reason a class needs to be cancelled at the last minute, a substitute instructor may be present in the classroom to notify the class of the cancellation and/or notice will be posted on ELMS. If
for any reason the professor or a substitute instructor is not present, students should wait at least 20 minutes. After that time has passed without the Professor or a substitute instructor showing up to the class, students may leave without suffering any consequences.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Official closures and delays are announced on the campus website at http://www.umd.edu and snow phone line (301-405-SNOW) as well as local radio and TV stations. If the University closes for inclement weather, then any reading assignments, written assignments or exams that were assigned for that day will be due the next class period that the University is open. If the University is opening late then the instructor will notify the class via the course mail and on ELMS whether the instructor will either have class or cancel class.

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Regular and consistent attendance in this class is expected from registered students. University policy excuses the absences of students for illness, religious observances, participation in University activities at the request of University authorities, and compelling circumstances beyond the student’s control. Students must submit the request in writing and supply appropriate documentation.

Campus Senate policy requires students who are absent for a Major Student Grading event, due to illness/injury, to furnish documentary support to the professor. I require students to contact me by email, text, or by phone prior to class time in which you indicate that you have an illness or an injury. As noted above, my email is da4617@gmail.com and my cell phone number is 240-863-1950. These are the three means to be used in communicating with me. You must provide written documentation of the illness from an outside health care provider verifying the dates of treatment and the time period during which the student was unable to meet academic responsibilities. This documentation must be provided immediately upon your return to class. You will not be allowed to turn in missed assignments or make up quizzes, tests or papers if you have not provided this documentation. Documentation not presented to me in a timely manner will not be accepted. In addition, if it is found that you have falsified the documentation provided, I will refer you to the University’s Student Conduct Office.

If a student has missed a single lecture, Campus Senate police allows that I accept as an excused absence a self-signed note from the student. The note must also contain an acknowledgement by the student that the information is true and correct and that providing false information is prohibited under Code of Student Conduct. The student is also obligated to make a reasonable attempt to inform the professor of his/her illness in advance. A self-signed note will not apply to missing a major Scheduled Grading Event.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation
form, which has been updated for the Fall 2015 semester. This form must be presented to me no later than **September 18, 2015**. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation which has been reviewed by DSS after **September 18, 2015**.

**ELMS**

The University of Maryland now uses Canvas via Enterprise Learning Management Systems, (ELMS). The ELMS website is [www.elms.umd.edu](http://www.elms.umd.edu). We will use ELMS in this course for posting grades, class announcements and class notes. After assignments are due and exams are given, grades will be posted on ELMS in a reasonable period of time. The instructor will also post class notes on ELMS for students to review. It should be noted that while notes will be posted, these notes are only a sketch of what will be discussed in class and are not to be considered a replacement for attending class and taking notes for oneself.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The University of Maryland, Shady Grove has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation and plagiarism. For more information of the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit [http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html](http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html)

The following statement must be signed and/or written on every exam and assignment: **“I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination (or assignment).”**

**COPYRIGHT**

Legally, course materials such as written or recorded lectures and Power Point presentations are copyright protected and the ability to copy and distribute course materials unless it is for personal use and with instructor’s permission is **illegal**.

The lectures I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. My lectures are recorded or delivered from written lectures in order to ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes of my lectures and to use course materials for your use in this course. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes (i.e. Terpnotes), or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).

**ONLINE COURSE EVALUATIONS**

Your feedback about this course is very important to me and therefore we do several forms of evaluations throughout this semester. One important campus-wide evaluation is the online
evaluation at the end of the semester. Students can go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete their evaluations.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Reading Assignments: Each student is responsible for reading assignments as outlined below and being fully prepared to participate in classroom discussions. While much of our reading derives from our text, other readings will be posted on ELMS.

2. Participation: Class attendance and participation are expected. Students must be prepared to participate in both formal and informal debates. Reflection papers, assigned and completed in-class, will contribute to a student’s participation grade.

3. Exams: Two exams will be given based on material from the supplemental readings, lectures and in-class discussion. NO MAKE-UP EXAMS will be given unless a legitimate and documented excuse plus notification to me prior to the exam are given, and the exam must be made up within one week of the missed examination. The format of the exams may be true/false, multiple choice, short questions, and/or some combination thereof. The professor will offer extra credit in the in the form of five extra credit quizzes worth two points each. There will be no makeups for the quizzes and you are expected to be present when the quiz is given in order to receive credit. The quizzes will not be given early or later then when it is given in class. If you come late or leave early and miss the quiz, there will be no makeups.

4. Issue Papers: Each student will write two short papers (no more than four pages in length). These papers will be presented in class, in order to facilitate discussion. They will be due at the beginning of the class session in which the material is being covered. Late papers will not be accepted.

GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Writing Assignment</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue Paper 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue Paper 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take Home Final Writing Assignment</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading

97-100 = A+; 93-96 = A; 90-92 = A-
87-89 = B+; 83-86 = B; 80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+; 73-76 = C; 70-72 = C-
67-69 = D+; 63-66 = D; 60-62 = D-
Less than 60 = F
This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. All changes will be announced at the beginning of class. Please read the assigned materials by the date noted.

All assignments in **BOLD** are Major Scheduled Grading Events.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Classes 1-4: Introduction and Overview of the Course and General Discussion of Law and Its Legal Processes; The right to protest, the clash between the First and Second Amendments, appropriate versus inappropriate police responses to protests, and government responses and regulation of protests

Classes 5-8: The Right of Individual Privacy versus the Right of the Government to Search and Seize Information from Individuals, from their cell phones and computers, from third party providers who possess such data and by any other means utilized to collect information. The discussion will focus on the Fourth Amendment, statutes, and other materials considering such issues.

The discussion will include the consideration of the definition of privacy from a legal point of view from the past to the present time, governmental interference with privacy versus private interference with privacy and the applicable constitutional, statutory, and legal principles that apply, the role of courts in shaping the right of privacy, societal attitudes and beliefs regarding privacy, and the role of technology in determining the privacy standards in the present and in the future.

Questions to Consider:

1. How much privacy do you have on your computer, your tablet, and your smartphone? Does the Fourth Amendment apply to your computer, your tablet, and your cell phones?
2. Are online entities able to track your personal preferences about your sources of information?
3. Does data mining expose your personal information to commercial, political and governmental organizations and agencies?
4. Is your personal information safe from hackers and others who want view your information without consent? Does password protection provide greater security?
5. How much do you trust Google, Twitter, Facebook, and other forms of social media?

Week 8: Midterm

Classes: 9-11: The internet, who owns it, who should regulate its use, censorship and web content, government and private regulation of is travelers.

Classes12-15 Gene technology, its past, its present and its future; What are its legitimate uses, should gene technology be prohibited, legal, ethical, and moral considerations surrounding gene technology, and the appropriate regulation of gene technology;

Classes 16: Other topics selected for study.