



SATURDAY ENRICHMENT SPRING 2019
JUSTICE FOR ALL:
AN INVESTIGATION OF THE SUPREME COURT

Instructor: Isabelle Shain
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Location: Loew Hall 216

Course Description

This course will explore the history of the Supreme Court, cases that have changed societal history, and look at what the future holds. Students will learn the process of the justice system and how everyday folks have the power to change the course of history with a single case. Through group discussions and research, students will be able to develop and voice their opinions about the most prominent Supreme Court cases in history and make predictions for how those cases will affect us in the future.

Essential Questions

What is the Supreme Court and why is it important? How can a single case change the course of history? How does the Supreme Court function in the US justice system? What can a court case of the past do for our society in the future?

Learning Outcomes

Students will expand their understanding of:

1. The structure of the Supreme Court and the US justice system
2. The power of historic case precedent

Students will develop skills to:

1. Analyze legal cases
2. Form individual opinions on case history
3. Create case foreshadowing
4. Be stronger public speakers

Instructional Strategies

I will use lecture-based teaching, utilizing the Socratic method, to engage all students in class discourse. Lectures will be supplemented by multimedia examples and small group discussions. The class will culminate in group presentations of the students' chosen cases.

Student Assessment

Student learning will be assessed considering class participation, comprehension of topics, ability to form educated opinions, as well as a final group presentation.

Resources and Materials

Students are encouraged to bring notebooks and pens for note taking. Students will need access for a podcast (Spotify, Stitcher, NPR, Apple Podcast, or internet). There are no required texts.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topic(s)	In-Class Activities
April 6	History of the Supreme Court	Multi-media presentation of history and class discussion of the importance of case precedent
April 13	How the Supreme Court works in our justice system	Flow chart building to illustrate the US justice process
April 27	History of Supreme Court justices and process of being appointed	Biography building, videos of confirmation hearings, and group discussion on justice appointment controversy
May 4	Analysis of historically prominent cases	Presentation of historical cases and group discussion of case precedent
May 11	Supreme Court case analysis and research	Analysis of <i>More Perfect</i> podcast and small group discussion to prepare for presentations
May 18	Supreme Court case foreshadowing	Building prediction charts of past case precedent and how they could impact our future
June 1	Court case presentations	Presentations on student-chosen court cases that include history and foreshadowing
June 8	Court case presentations (continued)	Presentations on student-chosen court cases that include history and foreshadowing