This course will consider the constitutional issues surrounding the prosecution of crime in America. The required text is Israel et al, *Criminal Procedure and the Constitution* (2014 edition). Bring the text to class. There are a few additional readings as indicated below. Books are available for purchase at the campus bookstore and on reserve.

This is a discussion class; students are expected to come to class, to keep up with the reading, and to participate in class discussions on a regular basis. Attendance and class participation constitute .40 of your grade.

A previous course on constitutional law is helpful but is not required. If you have not taken such a course, early in the semester you should read McCloskey and Levinson, *The American Supreme Court* (a short history of constitutional law).

Written work: There will be two moot court exercises; students will write opinions of the Court in each of them. There will be a take-home final essay. Each student will also write three other short papers about assigned readings, due as indicated below.

A series of optional films will be shown on Thursday evenings at 7 pm in K337.

Students are reminded to consult the College honor code, and any student with a documented disability should consult the instructor to arrange appropriate accommodation.

Feedback about the course is welcome throughout.

Class schedule:


F 9/5. Boring but important stuff. Ch 1.

W 9/10. Searches and Seizures. Ch 3, Sec 1.

F 9/12. Sec 2.

M 9/15. Sec 3 and Sec 5 through p. 182.

W 9/17. Rest of Sec 5 and Sec 6.


M 9/22. Sec 8.


F 9/26. Courts meet


W 10/1. Courts meet

F 10/3. Interrogations and Confessions. Ch 6, Sec 1-2-3.

M 10/6. After Miranda. Ch 6, Sec 4, questions 1-5.

W 10/8. Courts meet

F 10/10. Ch 6, Sec 4, questions 6-9.

M 10/13. Sec 5-7.


F 10/17. Moot court paper due/no class

Fall break

M 10/27. Prosecutors. Ch 10 and 11.


M 11/3. Courts meet

W 11/5. Trial by Jury. Ch 15, Sec 1.
F 11/7. Courts meet
W 11/12. Courts meet
M 11/17. Moot court paper due/no class
W 11/19. Prep for Friday
Thanksgiving
M 12/1. Ch 17, Sec 3-5.
W 12/3. Trials. Ch 18, Sec 1-2.
F 12/15. Sec 3-4.
M 12/8. Paper due on films or on Bach, *How America Holds Court*
F 12/12. Last class