

AP U.S GOV LANDMARK CASES SUPREME COURT CASES

Updated 4/2016

Quizlet: <https://quizlet.com/78349512/ap-us-gov-landmark-supreme-court-cases-flash-cards/>

| Case/Year | Topic/Issue | Supreme Court Decision |
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| Marbury v. Madison (1803) | Checks and balances | Established the power of judicial review in finding that a congressional statute extending the Court's original jurisdiction was unconstitutional (Marshall Court) |
| McCulloch v. Maryland (1819) | Federalism | Allowed Congress to establish a national bank via its implied powers and stopped Maryland from taxing the national bank as violation of Supremacy Clause (Marshall Court) |
| Gibbons v. Ogden (1824) | Federalism | Ferry boat case; only Congress is granted the power to regulate interstate commerce by the Commerce Clause of the Constitution (Marshall Court) |
| Dred Scott v. Sanford (1857) | Federalism, slavery | Ruled slaves were not citizens under the Constitution; struck down Missouri Compromise (Taney Court) |
| Reynolds v. United States (1879) | 1 st Amend – Religion | Upheld federal ban on polygamy because it is not protected by the free exercise clause; government can punish criminal activity without regard to religious belief (Waite Court) |
| Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) | Federalism, segregation | Upheld state-imposed racial segregation; "separate but equal" doctrine (Fuller Court) |
| Schenck v. United States (1919) | 1 st Amend – Speech | Upheld the Espionage Act; declared that 1st Amendment right to freedom of speech was not absolute; free speech could be limited if its exercise presented a "clear and present danger" (White Court) |
| Gitlow v. New York (1925) | Federalism, 1 st Amend | Established the selective incorporation of the Bill of rights (a.k.a. incorporation doctrine) through the 14th amendment; Bill of Rights can limit the states as well as the federal government (Taft Court) |
| W.Va. Board of Education v. Barnett (1943) | 1 st Amend – Speech, Religion | Ruled public school children (Jehovah's witnesses) cannot be compelled to salute the flag or recite the Pledge; violates 1st Amendment freedom of speech (Stone Court) |
| Korematsu v. United States (1944) | Rights of the Accused | Upheld the U.S. government's decision to put Japanese-Americans in internment camps during World War II due to a clear and present danger (Stone Court) |
| Brown v. Board of Education (1954) | Civil Rights | School segregation unconstitutional; segregation psychologically damaging to blacks; overturned separate but equal; use of 14th Amendment (Warren Court) |
| Mapp v. Ohio (1961) | Rights of the Accused | Established the exclusionary rule; illegally obtained evidence cannot be used in court (Warren Court) |
| Baker v. Carr (1962) | Voting rights, apportionment | Court set aside "political question" doctrine and ruled that it can decide a voting rights question; first important voting rights case (Warren Court) |
| Engel v. Vitale (1962) | 1 st Amend – Religion | Prohibited state-sponsored recitation of prayer in public schools by virtue of 1st Amendment's establishment clause and the 14th Amendment's due process clause (Warren Court) |
| Abington School District v. Schempp (1963) | 1 st Amend – Religion | Prohibited school-sponsored devotional Bible reading in public schools because it violated the establishment clause and due process clause (Warren Court) |
| Gideon v. Wainwright (1963) | Rights of the Accused | Extended to the defendant the right of counsel in all state and federal criminal trials regardless of their ability to pay (Warren Court) |
| Wesberry v. Sanders (1963) | Voting rights, apportionment | Established "one man, one vote;" ordered House districts to be as near equal in population as possible during reapportionment process (Warren Court) |
| Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States (1964) | Civil Rights | Upheld the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Congress can ban segregation in public accommodations via the commerce clause (Warren Court) |
| New York Times v. Sullivan (1964) | 1 st Amend – Press | Ruled the 1st Amendment protects even false statements about public figures unless they can prove statements were made with malice and disregard for the truth (Warren Court) |
| Griswold v. Connecticut (1965) | Right to Privacy | Established right of privacy for married couples using birth control through 4th and 9th Amendments; set privacy precedent for Roe v. Wade (Warren Court) |
| Miranda v. Arizona (1966) | Rights of the Accused | Criminal suspects must be informed of their right to consult with an attorney and of their right against self-incrimination prior to questioning by police; established Miranda warnings of counsel and silence (Warren Court) |
| Loving v. Virginia (1967) | Civil Rights | Struck down state's law banning interracial marriage as violation of the 14th Amendment equal protection clause (Warren Court) |
| Brandenburg v. Ohio (1969) | 1 st Amend – Speech | 1st and 14th Amendments protected speech advocating violence at KKK rally unless it calls for "imminent lawless action" (Warren Court) |

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| Tinker v. Des Moines (1969) | 1 st Amend - Speech | Upheld student's speech rights; wearing black arm bands in protest of Vietnam War is protected symbolic speech under the 1st Amendment (Warren Court) |
| Lemon v. Kurtzman (1971) | 1 st Amend – Religion | Established the "Lemon Test" to determine if a government law or action is constitutional under the Establishment Clause of the 1st Amendment: 1) the law must have a legitimate secular purpose, 2) must neither advance nor inhibit religion, 3) and must not result in an excessive entanglement of government and religion (Burger Court) |
| New York Times v. United States (1971) | 1 st Amend – Press | "Pentagon Papers;" government must prove actual harm to national security if it seeks prior restraint to censor the press (Burger Court) |
| Roe v. Wade (1973) | Right to privacy | Abortion rights fall within the privacy implied in the 14th amendment; women have total autonomy over pregnancy in the first trimester (Burger Court) |
| United States v. Nixon (1974) | Checks and balances | The President has no absolute constitutional executive privilege to refuse to comply with a court order to produce information needed in a criminal trial (Burger Court) |
| Buckley v. Valeo (1976) | Campaign finance, 1 st Amendment | 1st Amendment protects campaign spending; legislatures can limit contributions, but candidates can spend an unlimited amount of their own or family's money in campaigns (Burger Court) |
| Gregg v. Georgia (1976) | Rights of the accused | Death penalty is not "cruel and unusual punishment" in cases of murder (Burger Court) |
| Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1978) | Affirmative action | Upheld affirmative action, but ruled that racial quotas in college admissions are unconstitutional because they violate the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment (Burger Court) |
| Texas v. Johnson (1989) | 1 st Amend – Speech | Flag-burning is symbolic speech with a political purpose and is protected by 1st Amendment (Rehnquist Court) |
| Oregon Employment Division v. Smith (1990) | 1 st Amend – Religion | The state could deny unemployment benefits to a person fired for violating a state prohibition on the use of peyote, even though the use of the drug was part of a religious ritual (Rehnquist Court) |
| Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992) | Abortion rights | Struck down law requiring spousal notification prior to obtaining an abortion ; law invalid under the 14th Amendment because it created an undue burden on married women seeking an abortion; upheld requirements for parental consent, informed consent, and 24-hour waiting period were constitutionally valid regulations (Rehnquist Court) |
| United States v. Lopez (1995) | Federalism | Gun Free School Zones Act exceeded Congress' authority to regulate interstate commerce; important federalism case (Rehnquist Court) |
| Bush v. Gore (2000) | Political Process | Resolved 2000 presidential election by halting the Florida vote recount (Rehnquist Court) |
| Gratz v. Bollinger (2003) | Affirmative Action | Struck down use of "bonus points" for race in undergraduate admissions at University of Michigan (Rehnquist Court) |
| District of Columbia v. Heller (2008) | 2 nd Amend – gun rights | Ruled the 2nd Amendment protects an individual's right to possess a firearm for lawful, private use (Roberts Court) |
| Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission (2010) | Campaign finance, 1 st Amendment | Ruled that corporations and unions cannot be banned from spending money on a political campaign under the 1st Amendment; corporations and unions have the same free speech rights as individuals (Roberts Court) |
| National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius (2012) | Federalism | Upheld most of the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") including individual mandate under Congress's taxing power (Roberts Court) |
| Shelby County v. Holder (2013) | Voting rights | Struck down provision of Voting Rights Act of 1965 requiring states engaged in past discrimination to get federal preclearance before instituting changes in voting laws or practices; allowed restrictive state voter ID laws to go forward (Roberts Court) |
| United States v. Windsor (2013) | Gay rights | Struck down the federal Defense of Marriage Act's (DOMA) restrictions of marriage rights to only heterosexual couples as unconstitutional violation of the 5th amendment due process clause; same sex married couples now receive federal benefits (Roberts Court) |
| Obergefell v. Hodges (2015) | Marriage Equality, Federalism | Struck down state bans on same sex marriage based on 14th Amendment; States must recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-State. (Roberts Court) |