

American Legal History Section 319
Professor Meyerson
Spring 2018

Office: Room 1118
Phone: (410) 837-4550
E-mail: mmeyerson@ubalt.edu

FIRST ASSIGNMENTS

Course Readings are in:

Urofsky & Finkelman, **Documents of American Constitutional and Legal History**, Volume 1 & Volume 2 (3rd ed. 2008)

There will also be material posted on the course TWEN site. Please make sure you are enrolled before class begins.

NOTE: When an assignment has a “Reading,” it refers to material posted on the TWEN site. When an assignment is terms “Document,” it refers to material in **Documents of American Constitutional and Legal History**

You do not need to hand in your answers to the questions. You must, however, have thought about them and be prepared to answer them in class.

Class 1: The Boston Massacre

1. Reading I and II. What lessons does John Hancock want his listeners to derive from his version of the story of the Boston Massacre?
2. Reading III. Why does John Adams agree to represent the British soldiers? Would you?
3. Reading IV. What does Adams mean by “facts are stubborn things”?
4. Reading V. According to Justice Oliver, what standard should the jury use in deciding the guilt of the soldiers? Why do you think that is the standard?

Class 2: Magna Carta and the Case of the Seven Bishops

I. Read Document I [as best you can] and Document 11 [up until the word “frequently” on page 25] and say which parts of our Constitution were derived, at least in part, from either Document.

II. After reading all of the TWEN readings, please describe which parts of the story would implicate the following parts of the U.S. Constitution:

1. Art. I, §7
2. 1st Amendment [Hint: Many different parts of the 1st Amendment would be implicated by various parts of the reading]
3. 6th Amendment