

Date	Start	End	Author	Title	Abstract and Questions
4/15	3:12 PM	3:24 PM	Bartle,Alex zandrea B	The Constitution and Total Spatial Exclusion of Unhoused Individuals	<p>This paper seeks to examine whether the Constitution is structurally capable of limiting the total spatial exclusion of unhoused individuals. In the wake of City of Grants Pass v. Johnson, the Eighth Amendment appears no longer to constrain the criminalization of survival activities such as sleeping or resting in public, even where no lawful alternative exists. At the same time, municipalities retain broad authority to regulate public space through anti-camping laws, park closures, trespass regimes, and encampment sweeps; legal mechanisms, that in combination, render basic acts of existence unlawful across all space. Taken together, these powers raise a deeper constitutional question: does any doctrine guarantee that a person has some space in which their mere presence is lawful, or does the Constitution regulate only the manner of exclusion while permitting its totalization? This paper argues that constitutional law evaluates discrete acts of regulation while failing to account for their cumulative effect, thereby allowing the aggregation of otherwise permissible rules to eliminate lawful presence altogether. Drawing on property law analogies such as easements by necessity and the equitable right of redemption, as well as Jeremy Waldron’s account of the spatial preconditions of freedom, the paper contends that American law reflects a broader structural aversion to rendering rights physically impossible to exercise, yet constitutional doctrine fails to translate that principle into enforceable limits on total spatial exclusion.</p>
				Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Now that the Eighth Amendment may not be feasible to use as Constitutional protection for homeless individuals, is there another area of the Constitution which can be used to help protect them? Or in your opinion should the Eighth Amendment be used to protect homeless individuals, and consequently Grants Pass was decided incorrectly? 2. Do you believe City of Grants Pass v. Johnson was incorrectly decided? If so, what constitutional doctrine can you point to to support this position? 3. Does the Constitution actually allow cities to regulate public space in a way that leaves homeless individuals with no legal place to be at all? For example, would the Florida Constitution allow private businesses in Miami-Dade to implement policies that would do this?
4/15	3:27 PM	3:39 PM	James,Skyl ar	Voting Rights and Persons Unstably Housed or Unhoused	<p>This presentation examines how voting laws and administrative requirements in the United States systematically disadvantage individuals experiencing homelessness and housing instability. Although the right to vote is fundamental, modern election systems rely on assumptions of stable housing, consistent residency, and access to identification and other conditions that many unhoused individuals do not meet.</p> <p>The presentation analyzes how specific legal requirements, including voter registration rules, residency and mailing address requirements, voter identification laws, and voter roll maintenance practices, create structural barriers to political participation. Even where individuals experiencing homelessness are legally eligible to vote, these requirements often make voting registration and voting more difficult.</p>

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				Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many voter eligible Americans are prevented from voting due to these discriminatory practices? I think it would be interesting to see data on this issue to contextualize how it affects national / local elections. 2. Should the right to vote include a right to the conditions necessary to exercise it? How detailed or flexible would those conditions need to be? 3. If we redesigned voting systems from scratch without assuming stable housing, what do you think would be the first thing to get rid of (ID requirements, precincts, addresses, etc.)? 4. Do you plan to include a section that proposes policy changes to alleviate these barriers given these individuals are eligible to vote?
4/15	3:42 PM	3:54 PM	Joshi,Anus ha	How the Constitution, Federal Voting Laws, and Current Proposals Shape the Voting Rights of Homeless Individuals	<p>This paper will examine how the U.S. Constitution, federal voting laws, and current legislation shaped the voting rights of homeless individuals. Federal laws such as the National Voter Registration Act were once established to formally guarantee access to voting. During the 1960s and 1970s, the Supreme Court focused on mitigating voter suppression by strengthening voting rights. Through Carrington v. Rash and Dunn v. Blumstein, the Supreme Court established that voting rights cannot be denied to eligible voters based on the lack of a permanent home or long durational residency requirements, respectively. In recent decades, states have imposed their own restrictions on identification requirements and voter roll purges, which have been affirmed by the Supreme Court. These barriers to voting directly disproportionately affect homeless individuals. Despite formal, legal eligibility to vote in the United States, homeless voters are essentially disenfranchised due to residency requirements, voter identification laws, and limited access to voting.</p> <p>First, this paper will evaluate the Supreme Court’s treatment of voter rights and voter suppression from the 1960s to present day. Then, it will analyze the recent trend of restrictive voter rights legislation introduced in state legislatures and Congress, including the SAVE America Act. It will then turn to structural and legal barriers that homeless voters face when registering to vote, presenting voter identification requirements, and voting in person and via mail in ballot. The paper will conclude with policy recommendations to support the homeless population’s voting rights in the future.</p>

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				Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Given the history of federal intervention to protect voting rights, what are the actual limits of federal power today in constraining state-level voting restrictions? To what extent are those limits constitutional, as opposed to political or institutional?2. At what point does administrative burden become constitutional disenfranchisement?3. Are there examples where expanding access produced unintended consequences that courts later had to correct?4. How should courts distinguish between a permissible inconvenience and an unconstitutional burden on the right to vote?5. What were some of the main arguments for residency requirements? What would a system look like that balanced the voting rights of homeless individuals and having voting laws that did not lead to voter fraud? Do you think the current Supreme Court would uphold a system like this?6. How should policymakers balance concerns about voter fraud with the need to ensure that unhoused individuals have meaningful access to the right to vote?

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4/15	3:57 PM	4:09 PM	Garces, Morgan E	Anti-Fraud or Overly Broad? How Election Integrity Laws Disenfranchise the Unhoused	<p>After the 2020 presidential election, accusations of election fraud gave rise to several state and federal election integrity bills. Despite election fraud incident rates being between 0.0003 percent and 0.0025 percent, a proposed federal law, the SAVE Act, conditions voter registration on providing proof of citizenship and a valid ID, and eliminates mail-in ballots in order to secure elections. These laws are not just at the federal level, comparable state-level bills have emerged in Florida, Ohio, and West Virginia, among others, that follow the same framework. In 2004, a survey by the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty found that 36% of their unhoused clients did not have an ID because they could not afford one. Further, those experiencing homelessness may face obstacles with storing the requisite documents as well as with providing a permanent address when registering to vote. While protecting the integrity of elections may be a compelling government interest, this paper argues that these requirements instead impose a disproportionate burden on the unhoused population's right to vote and, thus, undermine their ability to participate in the political process.</p> <p>This paper will examine how anti-fraud laws are unconstitutionally over-broad by disenfranchising unhoused American citizens rather than just those likely to commit fraud. These laws burden unhoused voters, a population disproportionately comprised of minorities, in violation of their Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendment rights. I will distinguish Crawford v. Marion County Election Board, which established that a photo ID requirement to vote is constitutional so long as it is neutral and nondiscriminatory, from the laws at hand considering the greater burden on the unhoused. Further, I will argue that Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections, which established that poll taxes violate the Equal Protection Clause, conflicts with having citizens pay for documentation to vote. Ultimately, the election integrity laws will fail strict scrutiny. As a solution, I recommend changes to these anti-fraud election bills by proposing costless alternatives such as the use of sworn affidavits to register to vote, broadening the definition of a valid ID to include a voter registration card, as well as creating specific unhoused precincts that can be used as permanent addresses for voting purposes.</p>

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				Questions Corrected	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you think these laws are more vulnerable under the Fourteenth Amendment or the Fifteenth Amendment, and why? 2. How might these laws interact with other barriers the unhoused already face, like lack of access to transportation or information? 3. Do these election integrity laws just restrict access to voting, or could they also expose unhoused individuals to penalties or legal consequences for attempting to vote without the required documentation? 4. Could the enforcement of documentation requirements at the polls effectively extend the criminalization of homelessness into the voting process, and if so, what are the legal consequences for someone who tries to vote but lacks the required ID or proof of citizenship? 5. How much does it cost to get an ID, and does it vary greatly from state to state? 6. How might these difficulties differ at the federal, state, and local levels?
4/15	4:12 PM	4:24 PM	Howard, Sara	Domestic Violence and Homelessness	<p>Domestic violence is one of the leading causes of homelessness among women and children, yet legal and policy responses continue to treat these issues as separate rather than interconnected crises. Existing scholarship and policy approaches analyze these issues in isolation, obscuring how legal and social systems interact to produce housing instability. As a result, survivors are forced to navigate legal systems that fail to protect them and housing systems that are not designed to meet their safety needs. This paper will argue that existing legal doctrines including eviction regimes, nuisance ordinances, constitutional limitations on affirmative state duties, and the unenforceability of the Violence Against Women Act's housing protections, not only fail survivors but actively contribute to their displacement. At the same time, mainstream homelessness programs compound this harm by operating on economic assumptions that are incompatible with the safety-driven realities of domestic violence. Ultimately, this paper will argue that domestic violence survivors are pushed into homelessness not only by abuse itself but by the interaction of two structurally incompatible systems: legal frameworks that penalize or fail to protect them, and homelessness programs that are not designed to address safety-driven displacement.</p>

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				Questions	<p>1. How do you think legal or policy changes could better connect domestic violence protections with housing systems in practice—especially in places like Miami, where things like nuisance ordinances or eviction rules can end up pushing survivors out—and what would make those changes actually usable for people on the ground?•2. What does it mean for the law to “protect” survivors 2. if accessing that protection increases their risk of displacement?</p> <p>3. Are housing and safety legally separable, or does treating them as separate create the very harm the law claims to prevent? To what extent does the legal system’s inability to “see” domestic violence as a housing issue reflect a deeper problem about what kinds of harm law is structured to recognize at all?</p> <p>4. Can a legal system that imposes no affirmative duty ever adequately address violence-driven homelessness?</p> <p>5. What would have to be sacrificed or restructured for safety to become the primary organizing principle?</p> <p>6. Are there jurisdictions where integrating these systems has worked, and what tradeoffs did they accept?</p> <p>7. What aspects of traditional programs for homeless people do you think are the most problematic for victims of domestic violence? To create a system that effectively addressed both of these issues, what level of government/policy solution (using the law, legislation, county/local ordinance) would have the greatest chance to help homeless victims?</p>

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4/15	4:27 PM	4:39 PM	Raptis, Nicholas R	Escaping Tradition Through Homeless Bills of Rights	<p>The overall goal of this paper is to understand the relatively new concept of a Homeless Bill of Rights and whether it is more effective than previous approaches toward homelessness, namely criminalization. Currently, the paper begins an explanation of what a Homeless Bill of Rights entails and states which have been early adopters. Some states have similar legislation to a Homeless Bill of Rights, and the minor differences among states and challenges to passing a Homeless Bill of Rights are then discussed. It is then important to understand the traditional approach to homelessness, which is state-led criminalization. As the effectiveness of these tactics became doubtful, states sought alternative and experimental methods of dealing with homelessness. This led to the creation of the concept of a Homeless bill of Rights.</p> <p>It is here where the differences between this modern approach and traditional approach will be contrasted, mainly through the lens of why it is important to classify this legislation as a “Bill of Rights” (negative v. affirmative rights). States must also be aware of the administration behind Homeless Bills of Rights, and the interplay with other initiatives such as affordable housing. Finally, the future of Homeless Bills of Rights will be discussed. Due to the relatively short period of time the concept has existed, it is difficult to say what the long term effects will be. States who choose to adopt or deliberate on the issue should approach crafting a Homeless Bill of Rights carefully. Too broad and it will likely be overly ambitious, but too narrow and it may not help those in need. As states look to change their approach to this growing issue across the country, Homeless Bills of Rights will likely become more popular as a tool.</p>
				Questions Updated	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does a Homeless Bill of Rights entail, and what issues do you think states are most likely to adopt? 2. Do you believe a national Homeless Bill of Rights is feasible? Why or why not? 3. What criticisms do you anticipate may be raised by critics of this approach? 4. What is the benefit of classifying laws as a homeless bill of rights instead of policy reform, statutory provision, etc.?
4/15	4:42 PM	4:54 PM	Schoenblatt, Maxx S	State Constitutions and an Affirmative Right to Housing	<p>This paper examines state constitutions as an avenue to create a right to housing through positive rights. It will first look at existing models of judicially enforced positive rights in state constitutions, specifically examining affirmative rights to education and the public trust doctrine as a guide for how to create an effective framework for a right to housing. The next part of the paper will then look to South Africa case law related to positive rights to assess its promise and limitations of its reasonableness enforcement model. Using both US state and international foundations, the paper will go on to discuss how to create an effective right to housing rather than a more narrow right to shelter, and examines how affordable housing is a necessary aspect of any solution. The paper will conclude with an evaluation of whether using state constitutional law is a viable path to create a right to housing, and offers a proposal for how to create the most effective procedural and institutional design to make such a right more than just aspirational.</p>

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				Questions Corrected	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If a right to housing were created through state constitutions, what do you think would actually make that right meaningful in practice—so that it leads to real access to affordable housing, rather than just existing on paper? 2. Are any particular state constitutions best suited to use your suggested approach? If so, why? 3. Do you believe a national approach using positive rights is possible? If not, why? 4. Miami-Dade County currently uses 1% of food and beverage sales as a homeless and domestic violence tax. Are you going to explore leveraging this tax or proposing a new one in order to make the positive right to housing more viable? 5. How will you approach states that have smaller unhoused populations and do not see a benefit in creating this right in their constitution? 6. We read that in response to New York’s right to shelter several states began sending migrants to the state which created a “crisis.” How will you propose avoiding this issue repeating in other states if not all states adopt this right? Or, will you propose that all states have to adopt this right in order for it to work? 7. What kind of standards will you propose are needed in these amendments? For example: storage, size of bed, heat/air conditioning, privacy?

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4/15	4:57 PM	5:09 PM	Kirk, Eliza S	How Affordable Housing Policy Shapes Patterns of Housing Displacement and Instability and the Criminalization of Homelessness	<p>My presentation will examine how affordable housing policy shapes patterns of displacement, housing instability, and ultimately the criminalization of homelessness. Focusing on Miami and Florida as a primary case study, the paper argues that the current framework—characterized by incentive-based development regimes such as the Live Local Act and a zoning structure under Miami 21 that has historically emphasized growth over affordability—produces significant gaps between housing production and actual accessibility. These gaps contribute to displacement in neighborhoods such as Overtown and West Coconut Grove and increase vulnerability to enforcement mechanisms that regulate the use of public space, including policing, fines, and other forms of criminalization. The analysis also considers how the spatial allocation of housing resources—shaped by zoning boundaries, redevelopment districts, and demographic mapping—can obscure community-specific needs and direct benefits away from the populations most vulnerable to displacement.</p> <p>Rather than undertaking a broad comparative survey, the analysis uses targeted comparisons to jurisdictions such as New York and California to highlight alternative approaches, including more direct public investment and stronger affordability controls, and to illustrate where Miami’s model may be limited. The paper situates these differences within a broader inquiry into how statutory design, funding mechanisms, and regulatory incentives shape both housing outcomes and downstream exposure to criminalization.</p> <p>It further considers how housing policy interacts with political narratives about homelessness, suggesting that certain policy frameworks may obscure structural causes of housing instability while reinforcing enforcement-based responses. The presentation ultimately argues that affordable housing policy functions as a critical upstream determinant of homelessness and that meaningful reform requires reorienting legal and policy frameworks toward producing genuinely accessible housing and reducing reliance on punitive regulation.</p>
				Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which specific policy changes would be most effective in improving actual access to affordable housing? 2. How does the gap between building more housing and making that housing actually affordable contribute to homelessness, and what is one policy change that could help close that gap? 3. Could you include how evictions contribute to housing instability? Specifically, a huge part of this is the rent deposit requirement in Florida. 4. It may also be interesting, if you take that route (evictions), to look at different affordable housing options in Florida and their policies (like how easy it is to get evicted). Ex: Low Income Tax Credit, Section 8, etc.