

## Title

Too Supreme and Partisan? How Nine People Took the Power to Change American Lives
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## Instructor

Name	Cathrine Gedsted Hansen
Program	American Studies

## Introduction to the class

Dear Student,

The United States is a country, which most people have an opinion about. One of the most recent events, which made headlines around the world, was on June 26, 2022, when the U.S. Supreme Court reversed *Roe v. Wade*. At once, American women lost their federal secured right to receive abortion care.

The Supreme Court has its original authority in Article III of the Constitution, but in the landmark case *Marbury v. Madison*, the Court expanded its own power. When the Founding Fathers drafted the Constitution, they did not foresee the two-party system, which is present in U.S. politics today. Therefore, they had arguably neither anticipated, that the Supreme Court would become a political battleground.

Together, we will look at separation of powers and 'Checks and Balances'. Hereinunder, we will investigate the role of the Supreme Court in this system. With an emphasis on three Supreme Court cases, *Marbury v. Madison*, *Roe v. Wade*, and *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, we will discuss how the Supreme Court went from being somewhat apolitical to an institution high on the political agenda.

## Preparation (corresponding to a maximum of 15 minutes preparation time)

Before we meet, I kindly ask you to do the following:

Watch this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HZj8Qp4p2A> which briefly outlines the Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*. Focus on (1) why the case came before the Supreme Court, and (2) how the Justices interpreted the Constitution.