

Notes — Week 16

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Period 3

- Stare Decisis — A latin term that means to “let the decision stand”. This means that the courts decision now serves as a precedent for all lower courts, including state courts
 - Precedent — Means to serve as a model for all similar cases. It is used by the lower courts to guide their decisions. Lower courts can not go against it.
- Advisory Opinions — Supreme Court can not give advisory opinions or rulings on a law or action that has not been challenged in the courts first (this would violate separation of powers)
- Solicitor General — Represents U.S. government before the Supreme Court when there is a case involving the Executive branch
- Cases in which Stare Decisis was overturned:
 - *Brown v. Board of Education* overturned *Plessy v. Ferguson*
 - *Wolf v. Colorado* overturned *Mapp v. Ohio*