* Civil rights are basic rights to be free from unequal treatment
* African Americans
  + Dred scott v. Sandford
    - The federal government has no right to prevent slavery
    - Slaves have no due process
* Reconstruction 1865 – 1877
  + Result of republicans potential defeat
    - Civil war amendments
      * 13th emancipation
      * 14th citizenship
      * 15th right to vote
        + This was not implemented well

Poll tax and literary tests

* Separate but equal
  + Plessy v. Ferguson 1896
    - Segregation was constitutional
  + Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954)
    - Overturned Plessy decision
      * This was not implemented for a while
* 1964-1965
  + The 1964 Civil Rights Act
    - Authorized the national government to end segregation
  + Voting rights act of 1965
    - Suspend restrictive election laws
      * DOJ was allowed to enforce
* Women
  + 19th guaranteed women the right to vote
  + The civil rights act of 1964
    - Ended sex discrimination
* Marriage
  + Loving v. Virginia
    - Invalidated law preventing interracial marriage
* Civil rights vs federalism
  + Protect minorities or the constitution?
  + Baehr v mike
    - Must show compelling reason to ban gay marriage
      * DOMA prevented gay marriage
      * **united states vs. windsor**
        + restricted federal definition of marriage
* Suspect class
  + Group likely to be subject of discrimination