CPO4062 - Comparative Judicial Process
Dr. Bruce M. Wilson

Course Home

Instructor Contact:

Instructor	Bruce M. Wilson
Office	PH 305E
Office Hours	By appointment
Phone	407 823 2608 (no voicemail)
E-mail	Use the class email for all email communications
Dr. Wilson's websites	At UCF

Required book:

The Judicialization of Politics in Latin America. 2005. Rachel Sieder, Line Schjolden, Alan Angell (Eds). London: Palgrave.

This is the only required book for this class and is available in paperback and hardcover. I have used the book in previous semesters, so there are large numbers of used copies available at the UCF book store and online.

All other readings will be made available to you, without cost, through the class webpages.

Course Description:

Superior Courts in some countries are vitally important to everyday political events, in others they are moribund, politically unimportant institutions that do little to reign in the actions of popular branches of government or to uphold and enforce individual and collective constitutional rights. With this in mind, this class introduces students to the significance of Superior Courts in a variety of countries, with an emphasis on events in the post-war period. We will examine the rise (or lack thereof) of Superior Courts in developed and less developed countries and evaluate their impact on the way in which countries are governed. A series of country case studies will be used to illuminate the consequence of the rise of courts on governance as well as on the lives of key groups in society.

Course Objectives:

At the end of this course you will understand:

- why some Superior Courts are powerful upholders of constitutions while others are not
- the motivation for judicial reform across many counties and across time
- the relevance of constitutions in different countries
- the inter-relationship between popularly elected branches of government and Superior Courts
- how some marginalized groups have used legal strategies to pursue their constitutional rights
- the role of international courts on domestic politics

Evaluation Procedures:

Grade Categories	Description of the requirements	Weight toward final grade
Intro module	one introductory module	2%
Substantive modules	Six (6) substantive modules Your lowest module grade will be automatically dropped	70%
Final Exam	mandatory, cumulative online essay exam on all materials covered in the class	28%

Other Information:

- The nature of mixed media (online) classes requires cooperation among students. So, this class is not a "competitive sport" but should be an interesting, thought-provoking, collaborative discovery of major issues and topics in comparative politics.

- Grading information on specific assignments will be provided in the assignment itself.
- Grades will be assigned according to final points students earn in the course. There will be no + or - grades in this class:

  100-90 A
  89-80 B
  79-70 C
  69-60 D
  59 or lower

Assignments:

- You are responsible for keeping a copy of all your written assignments for this class. You are also responsible for checking that the grades posted online are correct; any discrepancies must be reported to the instructor within one week of the grade being posted.

Late, make-up, and extra credit work

- All late essays will be penalized at a rate of 5 points per day late (including weekend days). No work will be accepted more than a week after the deadline.
- Quizzes cannot and will not be reopened after the deadline has passed.
- Discussion postings made after the final discussion deadline will not be graded.
- There are no substitute assignments and positively no extra-credit, **so please don't ask!**
- Academic integrity: The University of Central Florida has a very clear policy with respect to academic integrity. Please familiarize yourself with the policies of the "Golden Rule." especially p. 11 and p.16. All Assignments will have to be completed on your own.

Disclaimer:

- The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus during the semester as he deems appropriate.

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

- If you need to make any arrangements for fulfilling assignments or taking exams to accommodate for a disability, please contact the instructor.

Login and Password Information

To access the "eCommunity" or "Class Login" portions of this course, students must follow UCF's log-in and password conventions.

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