Course Syllabus

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

- Course Name: Judicial Process and Politics
- Course ID & Section: POS 4284-DW59
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Spring 2016
- Web Only Course

Course Description

Judicial Process and Politics examines the role of the judiciary in American society. In this course, we will primarily be *process* of law, rather than the product of legal processes. The law is not simply a collection of outcomes, policies, de decrees. Law is also a method for transforming contentious issues into enforced solutions. But this process is far from mechanical. Abstract rules and general principles provide some guidance in this transformation of contentiousness, b broader public understanding, and strategies of legal interpretation also play a role in this process.

A number of important questions will concern us throughout this course. Beyond understanding the mechanics of how the players who are involved and their role in society, we want to form opinions on how the judicial process *ought* to fu judges interpret decisions? How *should* the Supreme Court decide cases? If the current process is flawed, then what

This course provides information so that you will be able to form your own responses to those questions. Political scie agree on how those queries should be answered; this course will present some of their theories. Then you will evalua particular answer compared to other possibilities.

University Course Catalog Description: Study of the formal and informal judicial process. Legal culture, bureaucratic n recruitment and outputs, comparative judicial behavior.

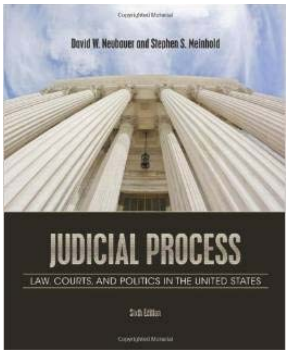
Course prerequisites: ENC 1102 (Freshman Composition II), POS 2041 (American National Government) or consent

Course Objectives

- Understand terminology and concepts related to judicial process and politics
- Understand basic history and organizational principles of U.S. court system
- Evaluate the role of the courts in democratic society
- Compare the popular perception of the legal system to the realities of American courtrooms
- Evaluate the fairness of the judicial system for racial minorities and the poor
- Develop in-depth understanding of a particular judicial process through direct observation and critical analysis

Required Texts and Supplemental Readings

- **REQUIRED**: Neubauer, David, and Stephen Meinhold. 2013. *Judicial Process: Law, Courts, and Politics in the Ur Edition*. Boston, MA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning (hereafter "Neubauer & Meinhold"). **See on Amazon (http /Judicial-Process-Courts-Politics-United/dp/1111357560/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1413476786&sr=1-1)**



- **REQUIRED**: Lewis, Anthony. 1989. *Gideon's Trumpet*. New York: Vintage Books [Originally published in 1964]. **S (http://www.amazon.com/Gideons-Trumpet-Anthony-Lewis/dp/0679723129/ref=la_B000APOQU0_1_1?s=books&ie=UT qid=1437530734&sr=1-1) ee on Amazon (http://www.amazon.com/Gideons-Trumpet-Anthony-Lewis/dp/067972312 /ref=la_B000APOQU0_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1437530734&sr=1-1)** .

- Additional readings will be announced and/or distributed online. In particular, these readings will focus on rulings f recent Supreme Court term(s), and articles regarding the various uses of federal and state judicial power.
- **RECOMMENDED:** Read your local newspaper's coverage of trials in your area. It's not only interesting to see ho reported, news reports can alert you to great opportunities to observe courtroom proceedings in your area (which complete the required original research project).

Course Requirements

Your final grade is based on following components:

1. **Module Review Exercises** (10%) - Each numbered module in this course contains at least one exercise design t understanding of the assigned material. Your lowest module review exercise score will be dropped.
2. **Module Quizzes** (40%) - Each substantive module in this course includes a short quiz to test your understanding material. Module quizzes consist of multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. Your lowest module dropped.
3. **Small Group Discussions** (10%) - Each student will be assigned to a small group of 5-6 students. We'll do our b students based on interests and location. In your small groups, you'll discuss how the course material relates to y interests and will also help one another with your original research projects.
4. **Final Exam** (20%) – The final examination is cumulative and will require students to apply their understanding of t a constructive manner. Students can expect a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. At leas questions will require students to apply course material to a hypothetical situation.
5. **Original Research Project** (20%) - A significant component of this course will be your original research on a judic want to learn more about. This projects requires both directed reading and field research. Our state and federal j diverse and offer abundant opportunities to study law and courts in action. By the end of the semester, you will sub Final Report on your original research. The assignment pages contain more information about this assignment.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

Make-ups for in-class writing, quizzes, the midterm, or the final exam will only be allowed for official University activitie emergencies. Written documentation is required. Make-up assessments may be different. There is no extra credit a class.

Late Work

Completing all your work by the specified dues dates is important to your success in this class. Late work will be pena on late work will be reduced 10% per day late. For example, if receive a score of 9 our of 10 on a quiz two days after took a quiz due Sunday on Tuesday instead), your score will be reduced 20%, so you will receive a 7.2 out of 10 on th receive no credit for work complete ten or more days after its due date. However, because modules unlock only after completed prior modules, so you will still need to finish your work (for no credit) to complete this class.

Grading Scale

>=93	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	<=59
A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F

Course grades are rounded to the nearest integer; thus, an overall numeric grade of 89.5% rounds to 90 and an A- le

Grades of "Incomplete"

Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for ar Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the “I” will automatically be recorded as a transcript.

Group Work Policy

There are no group projects in this class. You are welcome to discuss course material with other students, but you ar your own work.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assigr depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral **Student Conduct (http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/faq#students)** for further action. See the **UCF Golden Rule (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/)** for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the ac this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving ansv taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask r expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a traine will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from bra editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, **visit the (http://www.uwc.ucf.edu)**, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

You do not need to come to the UCF campus to receive help from a trained writing tutor. As a UCF student, you have tutors at the UCF Online Writing Center. You can **schedule an online consultation (http://uwc.ucf.edu/schedule.php)** tutor. You can get the help you need to complete the Final Report of your Civic Engagement Project online at a time c This service is free to you.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilitie available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with **Services (http://www.sds.ucf.edu/)** , Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (4 before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your u copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometime software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any persona information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comm assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns ab contact your instructor.

Financial Aid Requirement

As of Fall, 2014, all faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In c that you began this course, please ***complete the Evidence of Academic Engagement Quiz by the end of the first or as soon as possible after adding the course***. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your

Date	Details
Mon Jan 11, 2016	**UCF Classes Begin (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192830& include_contexts=course_1167053)**
	Quiz: About You and Your Interests (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assig /4273766)
	Quiz: SOL in the Court System (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assignme /4273761)
	Syllabus Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assignments/4273774)
Fri Jan 15, 2016	**Evidence of Academic Engagement Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/116705 /assignments/4273767)**
Sun Jan 17, 2016	**Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 3-11. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192 include_contexts=course_1167053)**
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 1-15 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1 include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Law, Courts & Politics Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assig /4273775)

Date	Details
	Law, Courts, and Politics Hangman (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assig /4273791)
Sun Jan 24, 2016	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 12-30. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=119 include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 16-47 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id= include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Discussion: Meet Group & Share Interests (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/11670 /assignments/4273781)
	Law and Legal Systems Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/ass /4273773)
	Law and Legal Systems Vocab Word Search (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/116 /assignments/4273790)
Sun Jan 31, 2016	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 31-46. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=119 include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 48-82 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id= include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Federal Courts Crossword (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assignments/4
	Federal Courts Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assignments
Sun Feb 7, 2016	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 47-58. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=119 include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 83-116 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Discussion: Planning Your Field Research (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/11670 /assignments/4273782)
	State Courts Jeopardy Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assignment
	State Courts Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assignments/42
Sun Feb 14, 2016	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 59-81. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=119 include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 117-155 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=1192827&include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Lawyers and Legal Representation Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/co /1167053/assignments/4273792)
	Lawyers and Legal Representation Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses /assignments/4273771)

Date	Details
Sun Feb 21, 2016	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 82-99. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=119 include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 156-193 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=1192821&include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Discussion: Relating Course Material to Your Project (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/co /1167053/assignments/4273780)
	Judges Hangman Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assignments/427
	Judges Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assignments/4273777
Sun Feb 28, 2016	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 100-106 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1 include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 194-220 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=1192825&include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Mobilizing the Law Jeopardy Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assig /4273793)
	Mobilizing the Law Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assignm /4273764)
Sun Mar 6, 2016	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 107-122. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1 include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 221-250 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=1192819&include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Criminal Justice: Preliminary Stages Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/cours /assignments/4273758)
	Criminal Justice: Preliminary Stages Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses /assignments/4273785)
Mon Mar 7, 2016	UCF Spring Break Starts (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192831& include_contexts=course_1167053)
Sun Mar 20, 2016	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 123-145. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1 include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 251-288 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=1192820&include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Criminal Justice Word Search (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assignmen
	Criminal Justice: Bargaining and Sentencing Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.e /1167053/assignments/4273763)
Wed Mar 23, 2016	UCF Withdrawal Deadline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192832& include_contexts=course_1167053)

Date	Details
Sun Mar 27, 2016	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 146-168. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1 include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 289-321 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=1192805&include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Civil Litigation: Disputing Pyramid Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/11 /assignments/4273784)
	Civil Litigation: How Cases Begin Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1 /assignments/4273772)
	Discussion: Status of Your Field Research (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/11670 /assignments/4273779)
Sun Apr 3, 2016	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 169-190. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1 include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 322-349 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=1192806&include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Civil Litigation Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assign /4273783)
	Civil Litigation: How Cases End Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/116 /assignments/4273768)
Sun Apr 10, 2016	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 191-201. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1 include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 350-380 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=1192818&include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Trials and Juries Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assignmen
	Trials and Juries Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assignments
	Discussion: Status of Your Research Paper (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167 /assignments/4273778)
Sun Apr 17, 2016	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 202-217. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1 include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 381-413 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=1192807&include_contexts=course_1167053)
	The Appellate Process Hangman Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053 /assignments/4273796)
	The Appellate Process Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assi /4273762)
Sun Apr 24, 2016	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 218-233. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1 include_contexts=course_1167053)

Date	Details
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 414-445 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=1192817&include_contexts=course_1167053)
	U.S. Supreme Court Agenda Setting Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/ /1167053/assignments/4273800)
	U.S. Supreme Court Agenda Setting Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/course /assignments/4273760)
	Upload Your Original Research Project: Final Report (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/cou /1167053/assignments/4273799)
Tue Apr 26, 2016	UCF Classes End (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192833& include_contexts=course_1167053)
Sun May 1, 2016	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 234-250. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1 include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 446-484 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=1192808&include_contexts=course_1167053)
	Identify Warren Court Justices (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assignme /4273788)
	Put Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions in Sequence (https://webcourses.ucf.e /1167053/assignments/4273794)
	U.S. Supreme Court Justices and Their Decisions Module Quiz (https://webcourses. /courses/1167053/assignments/4273776)
Sun May 8, 2016	POS 4284 Final Exam, Spring 2016 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1167053/assig /4273757)
Mon May 9, 2016	Grades Due to UCF (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1192835& include_contexts=course_1167053)