POS4284-20Spring 0W60

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Welcome to POS 4282: Judicial Process & Politics! Please study this syllabus carefully. It's written to answer questions you're likely to have and help maximize your performance in this class. After studying this syllabus, proceed to the Start Here Module (link at bottom of page) which includes a Syllabus Quiz.

Instructor Contact

- Instructor: Barry Edwards, J.D., Ph.D. (About Me)
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- GTA: TBD

Course Information

- Course Name: Judicial Process and Politics
- Course ID & Section: POS4284-20Spring 0W60
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Spring 2020
- Web Only Course

Course Description

Judicial Process and Politics examines the role of the judiciary in American society. Please read this syllabus carefully. This is an online only course. The course material is organized into a series of modules. When you've finished reading this syllabus, you can start with the "Start Here" module (there's a link to it at the bottom of the syllabus).

In this course, we will primarily be concerned with the *process* of law, rather than the product of legal processes. The law is not simply a collection of outcomes, policies, decisions and decrees. Law is also a method for transforming contentious issues into enforced solutions. But this process is far from simple or mechanical. Abstract rules and general principles provide some guidance in this transformation of contentiousness, but social norms, broader public understanding, and strategies of legal interpretation also play a role in this process.

One of the main goals of this class is for students to gain realistic perspectives on the judiciary and legal system in the United States. Chances are, much of what you think about judges, courts, and lawyers comes from what you've seen on television and in the movies. It's important for students to feel what it's really like to be inside a courtroom and hear what it's like to go to law and practice law for a living. These activities will help displace the images you have in mind and help you see why the course material is relevant and important.

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

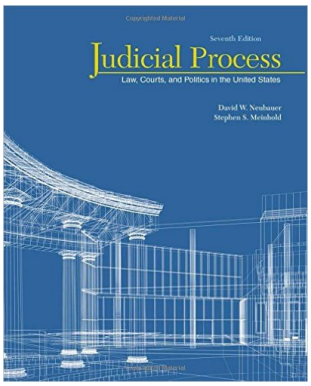
Course Objectives

- Understand terminology and concepts related to judicial process and politics

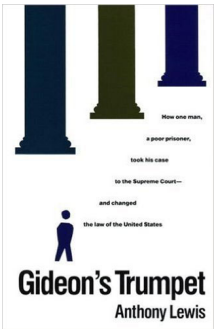
- Understand basic history and organizational principles of U.S. court system
- Evaluate the role of the courts in democratic society
- Compare the popular perception of the legal system to the realities of American courtrooms
- Evaluate the fairness of the judicial system for racial minorities and the 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. 2016. *Judicial Process: Law, Courts, and Politics in the United States, Seventh Edition*. Boston, MA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning (hereafter "Neubauer & Meinhold"). ISBN-13: 978-1305506527, ISBN-10: 1305506529. **See on Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/Judicial-Process-Courts-Politics-United/dp/1305506529/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1470240246)**



- **REQUIRED**: Lewis, Anthony. 1989. *Gideon's Trumpet*. New York: Vintage Books. ISBN-13: 978-0679723127. ISBN-10: 0679723129 [Originally published in 1964]. **See on Amazon (http://www.amazon.com/Gideons-Trumpet-Anthony-Lewis/dp/0679723129/ref=la_B000APOQU0_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1437530734&sr=1-1)**.



- **BOOK BUYING ISSUES?** Don't wait until the second or third week of class to get the books required for this class. If the timing of financial aid is an issue, take advantage of **UCF's Textbook Purchase Programs (https://finaid.ucf.edu/receiving/funds-for-books/)**.
- **SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS.** Additional readings will be announced and/or distributed online. In particular, these readings will focus on rulings from the most 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 how these cases are reported, news reports can alert you to great opportunities to observe courtroom proceedings in your area (which will help you complete the required original research project).

Course Requirements

Your final grade is based on following components:

1. **Module Quizzes** (50%) - Each substantive module in this course includes a short quiz to test your understanding of the assigned material. Module quizzes consist of multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. Your lowest module quiz score will be dropped.
2. **Final Exam** (20%) – The final examination is cumulative and will require students to apply their understanding of the subject matter in a constructive manner. Students can expect a mix of multiple choice and true-false questions.
3. **Module Review Exercises** (10%) - Each numbered module in this course contains at least one exercise design to increase your understanding of the assigned material. Your lowest module review exercise score will be dropped.
4. **Small Group Discussions** (20%) - Each student will be assigned to a small group of 5-10 students. In your small groups, you'll discuss how the course material, share independent research, and tell your group what you've learned through class-related activities.

Course Policies

- Workload Expectations +
- Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit +
- Late Work +
- Grading Scale +
- Grades of "Incomplete" +
- Group Work +
- Academic Honesty +
- Professionalism Policy +
- University Writing Center +
- Disability Statement +
- Emergency Procedures and Campus Safety +
- Accommodations for Active Duty Military Students +
- Religious Observances +
- Copyright +
- Third-Party Software and FERPA +
- Financial Aid Requirement +

START HERE MODULE

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Mon Jan 6, 2020	Start Module/Week 1: Law, Courts, and Politics (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779625&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
	UCF Classes Begin! (Spring 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779629&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
	Syllabus Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380683)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 9, 2020	Drop/Swap Deadline (Spring 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779636&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
	Discussion: Meet Your Small Group (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380697)	due by 11:59pm
	Law, Courts, and Politics Hangman (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380709)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 10, 2020	Add Deadline (Spring 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779626&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
	Evidence of Academic Engagement Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380677)	due by 5pm
Sun Jan 12, 2020	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779618&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
	Module 1 Quiz: Law, Courts & Politics (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380691)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 13, 2020	Start Module/Week 2: Law and Legal Systems (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779611&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
Thu Jan 16, 2020	Law and Legal Systems Vocab Word Search (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380708)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 19, 2020	Module 2 Quiz: Law and Legal Systems (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380686)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 20, 2020	Start Module/Week 3: Federal Courts (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779613&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
Thu Jan 23, 2020	Discussion: A Courthouse Near You (Requires You to Visit a Courthouse) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380696)	due by 11:59pm
	Federal Courts Crossword (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380705)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 26, 2020	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779621&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
	Module 3 Quiz: Federal Courts (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380675)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Mon Jan 27, 2020	Start Module/Week 4: State Courts (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779609&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
Thu Jan 30, 2020	State Courts Jeopardy Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380712)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 2, 2020	Module 4 Quiz: State Courts (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380687)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 3, 2020	Start Module/Week 5: Lawyers and Legal Representation (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779606&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
Thu Feb 6, 2020	Discussion: Costs and Benefits of Attending Law School (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380693)	due by 11:59pm
	Lawyers and Legal Representation Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380710)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 9, 2020	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779617&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
	Module 5 Quiz: Lawyers and Legal Representation (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380681)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 10, 2020	Start Module/Week 6: Judges (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779605&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
Thu Feb 13, 2020	Judges Hangman Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380707)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 16, 2020	Module 6 Quiz: Judges (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380690)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 17, 2020	Start Module/Week 7: Mobilizing the Law (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779602&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
Thu Feb 20, 2020	Discussion: Practicing Law (Requires You to Interview an Attorney) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380698)	due by 11:59pm
	Mobilizing the Law Jeopardy Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380711)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 23, 2020	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779622&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
	Module 7 Quiz: Mobilizing the Law (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380676)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 24, 2020	Start Module/Week 8: Criminal Justice: Preliminary Stages (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779628&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
Thu Feb 27, 2020	Criminal Justice: Preliminary Stages Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380703)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 1, 2020	Module 8 Quiz: Criminal Justice: Preliminary Stages (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380679)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 2, 2020	Start Module/Week 9: Criminal Justice: Bargaining and Sentencing (https://webcourses.ucf.edu	12am

Date	Details	
	/calendar?event_id=1779601&include_contexts=course_1342960)	
Thu Mar 5, 2020	Criminal Justice Word Search (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380704)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion: High Profile Criminal Trials in the News (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380695)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 8, 2020	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779635&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
	Module 9 Quiz: Criminal Justice: Bargaining and Sentencing (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380684)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 9, 2020	Start Module/Week 10: Civil Litigation: How Cases Begin (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779620&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
Thu Mar 12, 2020	Civil Litigation: Disputing Pyramid Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380702)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 15, 2020	Module 10 Quiz: Civil Litigation: How Cases Begin (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380678)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 16, 2020	Start Module/Week 11: Civil Litigation: How Cases End (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779598&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
Thu Mar 19, 2020	Civil Litigation Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380701)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion: High Stakes Civil Litigation in the News (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380694)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 20, 2020	UCF Withdrawal Deadline (Spring 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779614&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
Sun Mar 22, 2020	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779634&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
	Module 11 Quiz: Civil Litigation: How Cases End (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380688)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 23, 2020	Start Module/Week 12: Trials and Juries (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779630&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
Thu Mar 26, 2020	Trials and Juries Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380714)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 29, 2020	Module 12 Quiz: Trials and Juries (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380685)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 30, 2020	Start Module/Week 13: The Appellate Process (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779596&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
Thu Apr 2, 2020	Discussion: Florida Appeals Court Opinion on a Statute of Limitations (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380699)	due by 11:59pm
	The Appellate Process Hangman Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380713)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Sun Apr 5, 2020	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779632&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
	Module 13 Quiz: The Appellate Process (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380682)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 6, 2020	Start Module/Week 14: U.S. Supreme Court Agenda Setting (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779633&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
Thu Apr 9, 2020	U.S. Supreme Court Agenda Setting Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380715)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 12, 2020	Module 14 Quiz: U.S. Supreme Court Agenda Setting (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380692)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 13, 2020	Start Module/Week 15: U.S. Supreme Court Justices and Their Decisions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779594&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
Thu Apr 16, 2020	Discussion: History in the Making in the U.S. Supreme Court (Spring 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380700)	due by 11:59pm
	Identify Warren Court Justices (May Require Web Research) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380706)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 19, 2020	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779619&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
	Module 15 Quiz: U.S. Supreme Court Justices and Their Decisions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380689)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 20, 2020	Study for POS 4284 Final Exam! (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779615&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am
Sun Apr 26, 2020	POS 4284 Final Exam, Spring 2020 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1342960/assignments/6380680)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 30, 2020	Grades Due to UCF by noon (Spring 2020) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1779616&include_contexts=course_1342960)	12am