POS4284-21Fall 0W61

Jump to Today ✎ Edit

Announcements from the School of Politics, Security & International Affairs:

- **SPSIA Success Series:** *Welcome Event for New Majors.* Meet peers and professors who want to help you succeed! Wed. Sept. 1, 11:30am-1pm, Key West Ballroom, Student Union. RVSP.
- GEEO **Seeking Three Outreach Fellows for Fall 2021.** Send statement of interest and resume to melody.espaillat@ucf.edu and james.bacchus@ucf.edu.
- **Watch the SPSIA Success Series:** Opportunities for Majors, Internships, Honors Research, Study Abroad

Instructor Contact

- Instructor: Barry Edwards, J.D., Ph.D. (**About Me**)
- Office: Howard Phillips Hall 102C (**Where's This?** (http://map.ucf.edu/locations/14/howard-phillips-hall-hph/))
- Phone: 407-823-2608 (SPSIA main office)
- E-mail: **barry.edwards@ucf.edu** (mailto:barry.edwards@ucf.edu)
- Office Hours: Tuesdays 10am - noon; Fridays 10am - noon, call 321-394-8868 during these times to speak to me. Other times may be available by appointment.
- GTA: TBD

Course Information

- Course Name: Judicial Process and Politics
- Course ID & Section: POS4284-21Fall 0W61
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Fall 2021
- 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.

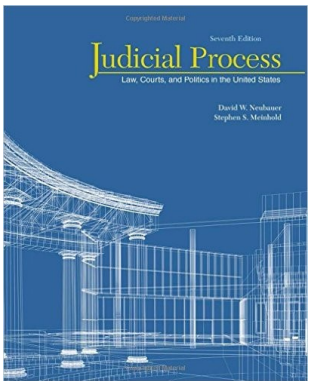
Course prerequisites: ENC 1102 (Freshman Composition II), POS 2041 (American National Government) or consent of the instructor.

Course Objectives

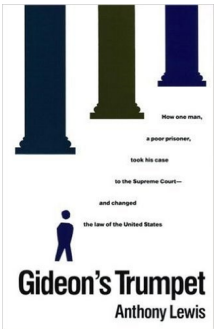
- Understand terminology and concepts related to judicial process and politics
- Understand basic history and organizational principles of U.S. court system
- Evaluate the role of the courts in democratic society
- Compare the popular perception of the legal system to the realities of American courtrooms
- 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 the components listed below. Assignment point values are based on 1,400 total points in the course.

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

COVID-19 +

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	Due
Mon Aug 23, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 3-11. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365201&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 1-15 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365176&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	UCF Classes Begin! (Fall 2021) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365211&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Syllabus Quiz (Not Weighted, Please Complete ASAP) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174773)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Aug 27, 2021	Drop/Swap Deadline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365184&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Evidence of Academic Engagement Quiz (Not Weighted, Please Complete ASAP) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174757)	due by 5pm
Sat Aug 28, 2021	Add Deadline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365195&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
Sun Aug 29, 2021	Discussion: Meet Your Small Group (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174778)	due by 11:59pm
	Law, Courts & Politics Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174766)	due by 11:59pm
	Law, Courts, and Politics Hangman (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174791)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Mon Aug 30, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 12-30. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365172&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 16-45 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365173&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365196&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
Sun Sep 5, 2021	Law and Legal Systems Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174770)	due by 11:59pm
	Law and Legal Systems Vocab Word Search (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174790)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 6, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 31-46. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365174&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 46-79 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365179&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
Sun Sep 12, 2021	Discussion: A Courthouse Near You (Requires You to Visit a Courthouse) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174779)	due by 11:59pm
	Federal Courts Crossword (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174787)	due by 11:59pm
	Federal Courts Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174764)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 13, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 47-58. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365189&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 80-112 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365180&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365215&	12am

Date	Details	Due
	include_contexts=course_1386738)	
Sun Sep 19, 2021	State Courts Jeopardy Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174794)	due by 11:59pm
	State Courts Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174762)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 20, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 59-81. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365190&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 113-148 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365193&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
Sun Sep 26, 2021	Discussion: Costs and Benefits of Attending Law School (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174780)	due by 11:59pm
	Lawyers and Legal Representation Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174792)	due by 11:59pm
	Lawyers and Legal Representation Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174774)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 27, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 82-99. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365197&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 149-185 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365214&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365206&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
Sun Oct 3, 2021	Judges Hangman Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174789)	due by 11:59pm
	Judges Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174763)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 4, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 100-106 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365177&	12am

Date	Details	Due
	include_contexts=course_1386738)	
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 186-211 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365175&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
Sun Oct 10, 2021	Discussion: Practicing Law (Requires You to Interview an Attorney) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174777)	due by 11:59pm
	Mobilizing the Law Jeopardy Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174793)	due by 11:59pm
	Mobilizing the Law Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174765)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 11, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 107-122. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365194&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 212-241 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365191&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365185&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
Sun Oct 17, 2021	Criminal Justice: Preliminary Stages Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174768)	due by 11:59pm
	Criminal Justice: Preliminary Stages Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174785)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 18, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 123-145. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365198&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 242-280 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365186&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
Sun Oct 24, 2021	Criminal Justice Word Search (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174786)	due by 11:59pm
	Criminal Justice: Bargaining and Sentencing Module Quiz	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	(https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174772)	
	Discussion: High Profile Criminal Trials in the News (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174781)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 25, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 146-168. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365203&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 281-314 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365199&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365183&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
Fri Oct 29, 2021	UCF Withdrawal Deadline (Fall 2021) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365205&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
Sun Oct 31, 2021	Civil Litigation: Disputing Pyramid Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174784)	due by 11:59pm
	Civil Litigation: How Cases Begin Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174760)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 1, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 169-190. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365207&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 315-342 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365188&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
Sun Nov 7, 2021	Civil Litigation Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174783)	due by 11:59pm
	Civil Litigation: How Cases End Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174758)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion: High Stakes Civil Litigation in the News (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174782)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 8, 2021	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu	12am

Date	Details	Due
	/calendar?event_id=2365213&include_contexts=course_1386738)	
	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 191-201. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365182&include_contexts=course_1386738)	11pm
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 343-373 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365204&include_contexts=course_1386738)	11pm
Sun Nov 14, 2021	Trials and Juries Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174759)	due by 11:59pm
	Trials and Juries Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174796)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 15, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 202-217. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365187&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 374-405 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365209&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
Sun Nov 21, 2021	Discussion: Florida Appeals Court Opinion on a Statute of Limitations (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174776)	due by 11:59pm
	The Appellate Process Hangman Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174795)	due by 11:59pm
	The Appellate Process Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174769)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 22, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 218-233. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365208&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 406-435 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365210&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365178&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am

Date	Details	Due
Sun Nov 28, 2021	U.S. Supreme Court Agenda Setting Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174797)	due by 11:59pm
	U.S. Supreme Court Agenda Setting Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174761)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 29, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 234-250. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365212&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 436-473 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365202&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
Sun Dec 5, 2021	Discussion: History in the Making in the U.S. Supreme Court (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174775)	due by 11:59pm
	Identify Warren Court Justices (May Require Web Research) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174788)	due by 11:59pm
	U.S. Supreme Court Justices and Their Decisions Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174771)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Dec 6, 2021	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365192&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
	Start studying for POS 4284 Final Exam! (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365181&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am
Sun Dec 12, 2021	POS 4284 Final Exam, Summer 2021 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1386738/assignments/7174767)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Dec 15, 2021	Grades Due to UCF by noon (Fall 2021) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2365200&include_contexts=course_1386738)	12am