POS4284-21Spring 0W60

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

- **Lou Frey Institute:** *Presidential Inaugurations and Why They Matter*, Jan. 13th, 3 pm, register for webinar
- **SAPLA Forum:** *Learn about Law Schools in the South*, Jan. 13th, 1pm-6pm, register to participate
- **Florida Political Science Assoc.** *Call for Papers from Talented Undergrads for Annual Conf.*, submit by Jan. 15th, 2021.
- **ICCAE:** *Financial Support for Research Related to Intelligence and Nat'l Security*, apply by Jan. 15th, 2021
- **Ralph Bunche Summer Institute**, *5 Week Program for Future Poli. Sci. Ph.Ds. at Duke*. Apply by Jan. 15th, more info

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: Tues. 10am - 1 pm & Fri. 10 am - 1pm, 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: POS4284-21Spring 0W60
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Spring 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.

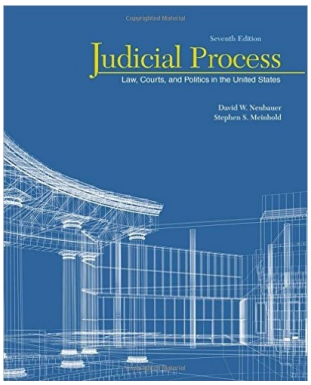
Course prerequisites: ENC 1102 (Freshman Composition II), POS 2041 (American National Government) or consent of the instructor.

Course Objectives

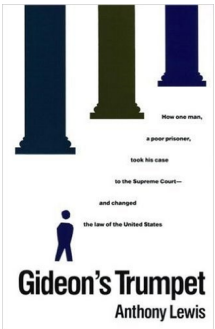
- Understand terminology and concepts related to judicial process and politics
- Understand basic history and organizational principles of U.S. court system
- Evaluate the role of the courts in democratic society
- Compare the popular perception of the legal system to the realities of American courtrooms
- 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

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 +

Required Statement Regarding COVID-19 +

START HERE MODULE

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Mon Jan 11, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 3-11. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105437&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 1-15 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105432&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	UCF Classes Begin! (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105445&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
Thu Jan 14, 2021	Drop/Swap Deadline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105452&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
Fri Jan 15, 2021	Add Deadline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105438&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Evidence of Academic Engagement Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870104)	due by 5pm
	Syllabus Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870093)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 17, 2021	Discussion: Meet Your Small Group (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870108)	due by 11:59pm
	Law, Courts & Politics Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870088)	due by 11:59pm
	Law, Courts, and Politics Hangman (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870121)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 18, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 12-30. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105431&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 16-45 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105433&	12am

Date	Details	
	include_contexts=course_1369740)	
	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105418&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
Sun Jan 24, 2021	Law and Legal Systems Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870092)	due by 11:59pm
	Law and Legal Systems Vocab Word Search (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870120)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 25, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 31-46. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105434&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 46-79 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105441&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
Sun Jan 31, 2021	Discussion: A Courthouse Near You (Requires You to Visit a Courthouse) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870109)	due by 11:59pm
	Federal Courts Crossword (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870117)	due by 11:59pm
	Federal Courts Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870103)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 1, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 47-58. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105427&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 80-112 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105440&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105460&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
Sun Feb 7, 2021	State Courts Jeopardy Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870124)	due by 11:59pm
	State Courts Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870094)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 8, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 59-81. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105439&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am

Date	Details	
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 113-148 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105436&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
Sun Feb 14, 2021	Discussion: Costs and Benefits of Attending Law School (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870110)	due by 11:59pm
	Lawyers and Legal Representation Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870122)	due by 11:59pm
	Lawyers and Legal Representation Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870098)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 15, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 82-99. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105429&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 149-185 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105428&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105450&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
Sun Feb 21, 2021	Judges Hangman Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870119)	due by 11:59pm
	Judges Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870096)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 22, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 100-106 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105435&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 186-211 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105430&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
Sun Feb 28, 2021	Discussion: Practicing Law (Requires You to Interview an Attorney) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870107)	due by 11:59pm
	Mobilizing the Law Jeopardy Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870123)	due by 11:59pm
	Mobilizing the Law Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870101)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 1, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 107-122. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105444&	12am

Date	Details	
	include_contexts=course_1369740)	
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 212-241 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105456&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105453&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
Sun Mar 7, 2021	Criminal Justice: Preliminary Stages Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870089)	due by 11:59pm
	Criminal Justice: Preliminary Stages Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870115)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 8, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 123-145. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105422&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 242-280 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105420&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
Sun Mar 14, 2021	Criminal Justice Word Search (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870116)	due by 11:59pm
	Criminal Justice: Bargaining and Sentencing Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870097)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion: High Profile Criminal Trials in the News (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870111)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 15, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 146-168. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105449&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 281-314 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105443&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105448&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
Sun Mar 21, 2021	Civil Litigation: Disputing Pyramid Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870114)	due by 11:59pm
	Civil Litigation: How Cases Begin Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870099)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Mon Mar 22, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 169-190. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105419&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 315-342 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105426&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
Fri Mar 26, 2021	UCF Withdrawal Deadline (Spring 2021) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105451&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
Sun Mar 28, 2021	Civil Litigation Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870113)	due by 11:59pm
	Civil Litigation: How Cases End Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870095)	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion: High Stakes Civil Litigation in the News (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870112)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 29, 2021	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105461&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 191-201. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105446&include_contexts=course_1369740)	11pm
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 343-373 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105447&include_contexts=course_1369740)	11pm
Sun Apr 4, 2021	Trials and Juries Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870091)	due by 11:59pm
	Trials and Juries Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870126)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 5, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 202-217. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105423&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 374-405 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105425&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
Sun Apr 11, 2021	Discussion: Florida Appeals Court Opinion on a Statute of Limitations (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870106)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
	The Appellate Process Hangman Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870125)	due by 11:59pm
	The Appellate Process Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870100)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 12, 2021	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105455&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	UCF Spring Break Week, Spring 2021 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2118494&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
Mon Apr 19, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 218-233. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105459&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 406-435 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105458&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
Sun Apr 25, 2021	U.S. Supreme Court Agenda Setting Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870127)	due by 11:59pm
	U.S. Supreme Court Agenda Setting Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870102)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 26, 2021	Study for POS 4284 Final Exam! (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105457&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
Sun May 2, 2021	POS 4284 Final Exam, Spring 2021 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870090)	due by 11:59pm
Mon May 3, 2021	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 234-250. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105424&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 436-473 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105421&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	Identify Warren Court Justices (May Require Web Research) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870118)	due by 11:59pm
Tue May 4, 2021	Discussion: History in the Making in the U.S. Supreme Court (Spring 2021) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870105)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Wed May 5, 2021	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105454&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am
	U.S. Supreme Court Justices and Their Decisions Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1369740/assignments/6870087)	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 7, 2021	Grades Due to UCF by noon (Spring 2021) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2105442&include_contexts=course_1369740)	12am