# POS4284-21Summer DW60

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

- **Feeling Overwhelmed or Distressed?** *UCF offers free counseling & psychological services to enrolled students*, learn more.
- **Black Students Matter.** Meet your professors, make advising appointment, participate in research, consider grad school
- **Internship Opportunities:** Florida PIRG Student remote internships, Redistricting Data Hub

## 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: Fri. 10 am - 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: POS4284-21Summer DW60
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Summer 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.

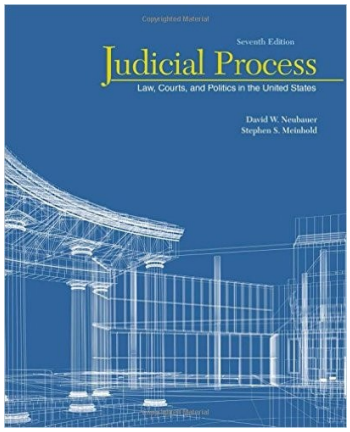
Course prerequisites: ENC 1102 (Freshman Composition II), POS 2041 (American National Government) or consent of the instructor.

## 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

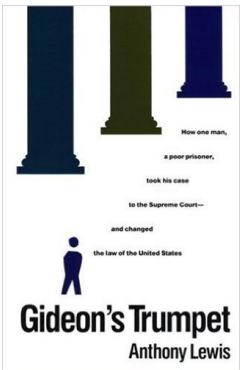
## Required Texts and Supplemental Readings

- **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 May 17, 2021 | Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 3-11. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303173&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 1-15 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu | 12am |

| Date | Details | Due |
|---|---|---|
| | /calendar?event_id=2303168& include_contexts=course_1381132) | |
| | UCF Classes Begin! Summer 2021. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2303205& include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| Thu May 20, 2021 | Syllabus Quiz (Not Weighted, Please Complete ASAP) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132 /assignments/7066816) | due by 11:59pm |
| Fri May 21, 2021 | Add Deadline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2303183& include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Drop/Swap Deadline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2303191& include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Evidence of Academic Engagement Quiz (Not Weighted, Please Complete ASAP) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses /1381132/assignments/7066810) | due by 5pm |
| Sun May 23, 2021 | Discussion: Meet Your Small Group (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132 /assignments/7066821) | due by 11:59pm |
| | Law, Courts & Politics Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132 /assignments/7066808) | due by 11:59pm |
| | Law, Courts, and Politics Hangman (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132 /assignments/7066833) | due by 11:59pm |
| Mon May 24, 2021 | Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 12-30. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2303167& include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 16-45 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2303169& include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2303181& | 12am |

| Date | Details | Due |
|---|---|---|
| | include_contexts=course_1381132) | |
| Thu May 27, 2021 | Law and Legal Systems Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066800) | due by 11:59pm |
| | Law and Legal Systems Vocab Word Search (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066832) | due by 11:59pm |
| Fri May 28, 2021 | Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 31-46. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303170&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 46-79 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303180&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| Sun May 30, 2021 | Discussion: A Courthouse Near You (Requires You to Visit a Courthouse) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066820) | due by 11:59pm |
| | Federal Courts Crossword (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066829) | due by 11:59pm |
| | Federal Courts Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066811) | due by 11:59pm |
| Mon May 31, 2021 | Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 47-58. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303201&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 80-112 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303176&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303197&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| Thu Jun 3, 2021 | State Courts Jeopardy Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066836) | due by 11:59pm |

| Date | Details | Due |
|---|---|---|
| | State Courts Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066804) | due by 11:59pm |
| Fri Jun 4, 2021 | Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 59-81. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303203&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 113-148 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303172&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| Sun Jun 6, 2021 | Discussion: Costs and Benefits of Attending Law School (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066819) | due by 11:59pm |
| | Lawyers and Legal Representation Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066834) | due by 11:59pm |
| | Lawyers and Legal Representation Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066801) | due by 11:59pm |
| Mon Jun 7, 2021 | Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 82-99. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303196&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 149-185 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303202&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303178&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| Thu Jun 10, 2021 | Judges Hangman Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066831) | due by 11:59pm |
| | Judges Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066803) | due by 11:59pm |

| Date | Details | Due |
|---|---|---|
| Fri Jun 11, 2021 | Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 100-106 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303171&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 186-211 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303166&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| Sun Jun 13, 2021 | Discussion: Practicing Law (Requires You to Interview an Attorney) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066822) | due by 11:59pm |
| | Mobilizing the Law Jeopardy Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066835) | due by 11:59pm |
| | Mobilizing the Law Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066814) | due by 11:59pm |
| Mon Jun 14, 2021 | Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 107-122. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303204&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 212-241 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303206&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303194&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| Thu Jun 17, 2021 | Criminal Justice: Preliminary Stages Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066812) | due by 11:59pm |
| | Criminal Justice: Preliminary Stages Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066827) | due by 11:59pm |
| Fri Jun 18, 2021 | Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 123-145. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303182&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |

| Date | Details | Due |
|---|---|---|
| | Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 242-280 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303195&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| Sun Jun 20, 2021 | Criminal Justice Word Search (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066828) | due by 11:59pm |
| | Criminal Justice: Bargaining and Sentencing Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066815) | due by 11:59pm |
| | Discussion: High Profile Criminal Trials in the News (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066818) | due by 11:59pm |
| Mon Jun 21, 2021 | Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 146-168. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303187&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 281-314 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303184&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303186&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| Thu Jun 24, 2021 | Civil Litigation: Disputing Pyramid Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066826) | due by 11:59pm |
| | Civil Litigation: How Cases Begin Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066813) | due by 11:59pm |
| Fri Jun 25, 2021 | Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 169-190. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303192&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 315-342 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303200&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |

| Date | Details | Due |
|---|---|---|
| | UCF Withdrawal Deadline (Spring 2021) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303174&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| Sun Jun 27, 2021 | Civil Litigation Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066825) | due by 11:59pm |
| | Civil Litigation: How Cases End Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066805) | due by 11:59pm |
| | Discussion: High Stakes Civil Litigation in the News (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066817) | due by 11:59pm |
| Mon Jun 28, 2021 | Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303198&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 191-201. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303177&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 11pm |
| | Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 343-373 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303185&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 11pm |
| Thu Jul 1, 2021 | Trials and Juries Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066806) | due by 11:59pm |
| | Trials and Juries Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066838) | due by 11:59pm |
| Fri Jul 2, 2021 | Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 202-217. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303199&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 374-405 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303193&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |

| Date | Details | Due |
|---|---|---|
| Sun Jul 4, 2021 | Discussion: Florida Appeals Court Opinion on a Statute of Limitations (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066823) | due by 11:59pm |
| | The Appellate Process Hangman Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066837) | due by 11:59pm |
| | The Appellate Process Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066807) | due by 11:59pm |
| Mon Jul 5, 2021 | Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 218-233. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303190&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 406-435 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303209&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303175&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| Thu Jul 8, 2021 | U.S. Supreme Court Agenda Setting Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066839) | due by 11:59pm |
| | U.S. Supreme Court Agenda Setting Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066809) | due by 11:59pm |
| Fri Jul 9, 2021 | Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 234-250. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303208&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 436-473 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303189&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| Sun Jul 11, 2021 | Discussion: History in the Making in the U.S. Supreme Court (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066824) | due by 11:59pm |

| Date | Details | Due |
|---|---|---|
| | Identify Warren Court Justices (May Require Web Research) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066830) | due by 11:59pm |
| | U.S. Supreme Court Justices and Their Decisions Module Quiz (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066802) | due by 11:59pm |
| Mon Jul 12, 2021 | Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303207&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| | Start studying for POS 4284 Final Exam! (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303179&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |
| Sun Jul 18, 2021 | POS 4284 Final Exam, Summer 2021 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1381132/assignments/7066799) | due by 11:59pm |
| Wed Jul 21, 2021 | Grades Due to UCF by noon (Summer 2021) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2303188&include_contexts=course_1381132) | 12am |