POS4284-24Spring 0001

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

- **Grad School Info:** UCF AAP hosts *Online Grad School Info Sessions* every Wednesday from noon-1pm, more info & calendar
- **Paid Internship Opportunities** with Council on Foreign Relations in Spring 2024, more info.
- **Florida Undergrad Research Summit:** Register by Dec. 15 (event Feb 2-3 at UCF), more info.
- **Scoville Peace Fellowship:** Apply by Jan. 8th for Fall 2024 program, more info.

WELCOME TO POS 4284: JUDICIAL PROCESS & POLITICS

This is the online component of a face-to-face class. It contains the course syllabus, detailed statements of course policies, information about the class, and the course gradebook.

Instructor Contact

- Instructor: Barry Edwards, J.D., Ph.D. (**About Me (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099/pages/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. noon-1:50pm, Thurs. noon-1:50pm, Fri. 11:30am-1:50pm. Call 321-394-8868 during these times to speak to me or drop by my HPH 102C office, no appointment needed.

Course Information

- Course Name: Judicial Process and Politics
- Course ID & Section: POS4284-24Spring 0001
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Spring 2024
- Class Times: MWF 10:30 - 11:20am
- Class Location: NSC, Rm. 110

Course Description

Judicial Process and Politics examines the role of the judiciary in American society. Please read this syllabus carefully. 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.

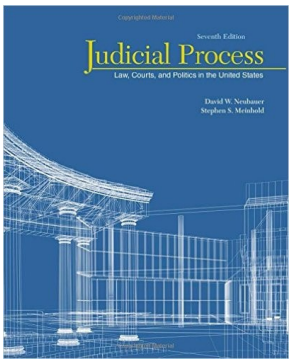
Course prerequisites: ENC 1102 (Freshman Composition II), POS 2041 (American National Government) or consent of the instructor.

Course Objectives

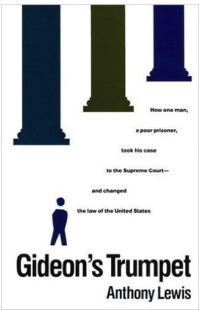
- Understand terminology and concepts related to judicial process and politics
- Understand basic history and organizational principles of U.S. court system
- Evaluate the role of the courts in democratic society
- Compare the popular perception of the legal system to the realities of American courtrooms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

Course Requirements

Your final grade is based on the components listed below. Assignment point values are based on 2,800 total points in the course.

1. **Learning & Discussion Activities** (60%) - There are six learning and discussion activities. These assignments require students to do independent research, active learning, critical thinking, and small group discussions.
2. **Final Exam** (20%) – The final examination is cumulative and will require students to apply their understanding of the subject matter in a critical and thoughtful manner.
3. **Module Review Exercises** (5%) - Each numbered module in this course contains at least one exercise design to increase your understanding of the assigned material.
4. **Class Attendance & Participation** (15%) - Students are expected to attend all class sessions, respect class time, and contribute to class discussions. Attendance and participation will be assessed by the instructor throughout the semester.

Course Policies

Workload Expectations

This is a three credit hour class. The workload expectation per credit hour is set forth in the **UCF Catalog, Registration Policies, Terms and Credit Hours (http://catalog.ucf.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=170#registration-policies)**, which states the amount of work represented by one credit hour is not less than "One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week [or equivalent work in internship, directed readings, etc.] for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time." In an online class, you make up for hours of class time on your own. This means you are expected to work at least 9 hours per week on this class in a regular Fall or Spring Semester or 18 hours per week on this class in an abbreviated Summer Term.

Spring Semesters: This class does not take a week off for Spring Break in order to fit the final exam schedule. If you have a trip planned, I strongly encourage you to work ahead so this class won't interfere with your plans.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups

Make-ups for in-class writing, quizzes, the midterm, or the final exam will only be allowed for official University activities or personal emergencies. Written documentation is required. Make-up assessments may be different. See **UCF Policy 4.401. (http://policies.ucf.edu/)** and **UCF Regulation 5.020 (https://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5.asp)**.

Late Work

Completing all your work by the specified dues dates is important to your success in this class. Late work will be penalized. You will lose 10% of the possible total points on an assignment per day late. For example, if you receive

a score of 9 out of 10 on a quiz two days after it was due (i.e. you took a quiz due Sunday on Tuesday instead), your score will be reduced by 2 points (20% of 10 points), so you will receive a 7 out of 10 on that quiz. You will receive no credit for work complete ten or more days after its due date. However, because modules unlock only after your have completed prior modules, so you will still need to finish your work (for no credit) to complete this class.

Lateness deductions may be waived if lateness was caused by extreme and unforeseen circumstances for which students can't fairly be held responsible. For example, if you are injured in a car accident and hospitalized, lateness caused by an unforeseeable medical emergency is excusable. If your home is destroyed in a fire, lateness caused by an unforeseeable personal emergency is excusable. I may ask for documentation.

Grading Scale

Name:	Range:	
A	100 %	to 92.5%
A-	< 92.5 %	to 89.5%
B+	< 89.5 %	to 86.5%
B	< 86.5 %	to 82.5%
B-	< 82.5 %	to 79.5%
C+	< 79.5 %	to 76.5%
C	< 76.5 %	to 72.5%
C-	< 72.5 %	to 69.5%
D+	< 69.5 %	to 66.5%
D	< 66.5 %	to 62.5%
D-	< 62.5 %	to 59.5%
F	< 59.5 %	to 0.0%

Any missing assignments are treated as 0 scores for the purposes of calculating final course grades.

Grades of "Incomplete"

Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete.

Group Work

There are no group projects in this class. You are welcome to discuss course material with other students, but you are responsible for 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 assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the **Office of Student Conduct (https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/)** 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 academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Professionalism Policy

Follow university policy and basic rules of etiquette. You must behave appropriately in all your class interactions.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, **visit the UWC website (http://uwc.cah.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 access to writing tutors at the UCF Online Writing Center. You can **schedule an online consultation (http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/schedule-a-consultation/)** with a writing tutor. You can get the help you need to complete the Final Report of your Civic Engagement Project online at a time convenient to you! This service is free to you.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with **Student Accessibility Services (https://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/)** , Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Emergency Procedures and Campus Safety

Students are encouraged to be aware of their surroundings and familiar with actions to take in various types of emergencies. Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <**https://my.ucf.edu (https://my.ucf.edu)** > and logging in. Click on “Student Self Service” located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue “Personal Information” heading on the Student Center screen, click on “UCF Alert”, fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click “Apply” to save the changes, and then click “OK.”
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

Accommodations for Active Duty Military Students

If you are a deployed active duty military student and feel that you may need a special accommodation due to that unique status, please contact the instructor to discuss your circumstances.

Religious Observances

Students are expected to notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class to observe a holy day of their

religious faith (not already reflected in the normal class schedule). For more information, see the **UCF Policy (http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf)** and/or contact the **Office of Diversity Initiatives (https://diversity.ucf.edu/)** at 407-823-6479.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All 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 sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please 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 order to document that you began this course, please ***complete the Evidence of Academic Engagement Quiz by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course***. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

START HERE MODULE (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099/modules/2599185)

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Jan 8, 2024	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 3-11. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964483&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 1-15 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964487&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	UCF Classes Begin! (Spring 2024) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964453&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	Syllabus Quiz (Not Weighted, Please Complete ASAP) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099/assignments/8278255)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 12, 2024	Drop/Swap/Add Deadline (Spring 2023) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu	12am

Date	Details	Due
	/calendar?event_id=2964457& include_contexts=course_1445099)	
	Evidence of Academic Engagement Quiz (Not Weighted, Please Complete ASAP) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099 /assignments/8278250)	due by 5pm
Sun Jan 14, 2024	Law, Courts, and Politics Hangman (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099 /assignments/8278270)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 15, 2024	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 12-30. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2964472& include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 16-45 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2964452& include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Sun Jan 21, 2024	Law and Legal Systems Vocab Word Search (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses /1445099/assignments/8278269)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 22, 2024	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 31-46. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2964470& include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 46-79 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2964450& include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Thu Jan 25, 2024	Active Learning and Discussion: A Courthouse Near You (Requires You to Visit a Courthouse) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses /1445099/assignments/8286521)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 26, 2024	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2964484& include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Sun Jan 28, 2024	Federal Courts Crossword (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099 /assignments/8278266)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 29, 2024	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 47-58. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2964478& include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 80-112 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2964462& include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am

Date	Details	Due
Sun Feb 4, 2024	State Courts Jeopardy Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099/assignments/8278274)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 5, 2024	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 59-81. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964476&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 113-148 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964474&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Thu Feb 8, 2024	Active Learning and Discussion: Costs and Benefits of Attending Law School (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099/assignments/8286530)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 9, 2024	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964459&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Sun Feb 11, 2024	Lawyers and Legal Representation Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099/assignments/8278271)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 12, 2024	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 82-99. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964481&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 149-185 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964485&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Sun Feb 18, 2024	Judges Hangman Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099/assignments/8278268)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 19, 2024	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 100-106 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964489&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 186-211 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964471&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Thu Feb 22, 2024	Discussion: Practicing Law (Requires You to Interview an Attorney) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099/assignments/8286526)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 23, 2024	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu	12am

Date	Details	Due
	/calendar?event_id=2964486& include_contexts=course_1445099)	
Sun Feb 25, 2024	Mobilizing the Law Jeopardy Game (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099 /assignments/8278272)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 26, 2024	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 107-122. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2964480& include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 212-241 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2964477& include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Sun Mar 3, 2024	Criminal Justice: Preliminary Stages Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses /1445099/assignments/8278265)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 4, 2024	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 123-145. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2964482& include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 242-280 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2964454& include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Thu Mar 7, 2024	Active Learning and Discussion: Observe a Criminal Trial (Requires You to Observe a Trial) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses /1445099/assignments/8286519)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 8, 2024	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2964451& include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Sun Mar 10, 2024	Criminal Justice Word Search (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099 /assignments/8278264)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 11, 2024	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 146-168. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2964455& include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 281-314 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2964491& include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Mon Mar 18, 2024	UCF Spring Break Starts (Spring 2024) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu /calendar?event_id=2964492& include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am

Date	Details	Due
Sat Mar 23, 2024	UCF Spring Break Ends (Spring 2024) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964493&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Sun Mar 24, 2024	Civil Litigation: Disputing Pyramid Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099/assignments/8278263)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 25, 2024	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 169-190. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964473&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 315-342 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964490&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Thu Mar 28, 2024	Active Learning and Discussion: Investing in Civil Litigation (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099/assignments/8286517)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 29, 2024	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964467&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	UCF Withdrawal Deadline (Spring 2024) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964456&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Sun Mar 31, 2024	Civil Litigation Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099/assignments/8278262)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 1, 2024	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 191-201. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964468&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 202-217. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964461&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 343-373 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964464&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Sun Apr 7, 2024	Trials and Juries Sequencer (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099/assignments/8278276)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 8, 2024	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 218-233. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu	12am

Date	Details	Due
	/calendar?event_id=2964458&include_contexts=course_1445099)	
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 406-435 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964469&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Thu Apr 11, 2024	Active Learning and Discussion: History in the Making in U.S. Supreme Court (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099/assignments/8286516)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 12, 2024	Reminder: Small Group Discussion Replies Due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964475&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Sun Apr 14, 2024	U.S. Supreme Court Agenda Setting Crossword Puzzle (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099/assignments/8278277)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 15, 2024	Read Gideon's Trumpet, pp. 234-250. (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964466&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	Read Neubauer & Meinhold, pp. 436-473 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964460&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
Sun Apr 21, 2024	Identify Warren Court Justices (May Require Web Research) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099/assignments/8278267)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 22, 2024	Start studying for POS 4284 Final Exam! (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964488&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12am
	Attendance and Participation (gradebook entry only) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099/assignments/8286628)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 29, 2024	Final Exam In-Person on Mon. April 29, 10am - 12:50pm (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1445099/assignments/8286627)	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 3, 2024	Grades Due to UCF by noon (Spring 2023) (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=2964465&include_contexts=course_1445099)	12pm to 11pm