POS 4284 - Judicial Process and Politics

Section: 0W60

College of Sciences

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

Course Information

Term: Spring 2025
Class Meeting Days: ASC
Class Meeting Location: Online
Modality: WW
Credit Hours: 3.00

Instructor Information

Nathan Ilderton
Title: Associate Lecturer
Office Location: Remote
Office Hours:
Office hours will be virtual via Zoom on Monday and Wednesday, 10:00am to 1:00pm. I will be available in this Zoom room:

https://ucf.zoom.us/j/9454354959?pwd=cUs0N3lObWJleVl4NXdyMnpua0R4dz09

You do not need an appointment to join this meeting, but you will be placed in a waiting room and admitted in the order that you joined.

Meetings at other times are by appointment.
Email: Nathan.Ilderton@ucf.edu

Course Description

POS 4284 COS-POLS 3(3,0)Judicial Process and Politics: PR: ENC 1102 or POS 2041 or C.I. Study of the formal and informal judicial process. Legal culture, bureaucratic model, judicial recruitment and outputs, comparative judicial behavior. Fall, Odd Spring.

This class is a study of the U.S. court system, its processes, participants, structure, and policy impact. This is not a course on the law, but on the branch of government charged with interpreting the law. We will examine state and federal court systems, the key participants in the legal process (judges, lawyers, special interest, etc.), and the process by which decisions are made in the judicial branch. We will also examine the impact of these decisions on public policy.

Student Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the basic procedures of the judicial process on the state and federal level.
- Understand the effects of politics on the creation and maintenance of the judiciary and its processes.
- Understand how the judiciary and its decisions affect American politics.

Course Materials and Resources

Judicial Process
Subtitle: Law, Courts, and Politics in the United States
ISBN: 9781337238175
Authors: David W. Neubauer, Stephen S. Meinhold
Publisher: Cengage Learning
Publication Date: 2017
Edition: 7th

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

This course is divided into two parts. Each parts include six lecture videos between 30 minutes and one hour in length. Assignments within each part include one quiz for each lecture, two discussion assignments, and one film assignment consisting of a film to be viewed and a 1000 word essay. Each part will be open for seven weeks. Part 1 will open at 12:01 am Monday, January 6th and close at 11:59pm on Monday, February 24th. Part 2 will open at 12:01 am on Tuesday, March 4th and close at 11:59pm on Monday, April 21st. All assignments will be available for the entirety of the time its part is open. During the week following Part I and during the University Final Exam Week, an exam will be available for completion. The midterm must be completed between 12:01am, Tuesday, February 27th and 11:59pm, Monday, March 3rd. The final exam must be completed between Tuesday, April 22nd and Monday, April 28th.

Each lecture will consist of assigned background reading from the text and a video. Each lecture has a quiz associated with it. Quizzes consist of true/false and multiple choice questions. True/false and multiple choice questions will be worth one point each. Your quiz grade will be computed by dividing the total points earned during the semester by the total points available. Quizzes are listed under the quizzes tab on the course menu.

Each half of the class will include two discussion questions in which you will be asked to interact with your classmates. Each discussion contribution will be graded on a 10 point scale based on the accuracy of the answer to the question posed and the quality of the interaction with fellow students. These are listed under the discussions tab of the course menu.

Each half of the class will include a film assignment. These assignments require you to watch a film and respond to it in a 1000 word essay using questions I assign as a guide to writing the paper. These assignments will be graded on a 100 point scale. These will be listed under the assignments tab on the course menu and will have their own pages linked in the course homepage.

During the dates listed above, an exam will be available which you are required to complete. Exams consist of five short answer questions from the material covered in the half of the class it ends. The second exam is not cumulative. Exam questions should be answered in one or two paragraphs each. Answers should be original (i.e. not cut and pasted from course modules or copied from the textbook). Exams require the use of Lockdown Browser (see below).

Once you begin a quiz, discussion, or film assignment there is no time limit for it to be completed. There is a 60 minute time limit for the completion of exams. Also, be aware that you only get one attempt to complete a quiz or exam, i.e. once you start a quiz or exam you must complete it.

LockDown Browser

This course requires the use of LockDown Browser for the three exams. Note: This course requires only the lockdown browser feature, not the Respondus Webcam Monitor. Watch this video to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser:

https://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/student-movie.shtml

Download Instructions Download and install LockDown Browser from this link:

https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=472413933

Once Installed

- Start LockDown Browser
- Log into to Canvas
- Navigate to the exam

Note: You won't be able to access an exam that requires LockDown Browser with a standard web browser. If this is tried, an error message will indicate that the exam requires the use of LockDown Browser. Simply start LockDown Browser and navigate back to the exam to continue.

Guidelines When taking an online exam follow these guidelines:

- Select a location where you won't be interrupted
- Before starting the test, know how much time is available for it (60 minutes), and also that you've allotted sufficient time to complete it
- Remain at your desk or workstation for the duration of the test
- LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted

Getting Help Several resources are available if you encounter problems with LockDown Browser:

- The Windows and Mac versions of LockDown Browser have a "Help Center" button located on the toolbar. Use the "System & Network Check" to troubleshoot issues. If an exam requires you to use a webcam, also run the "Webcam Check" from this area
- Contact the UCF IT Service Desk or UCF Online Learning
- Respondus has a Knowledge Base available from support.respondus.com. Select "LockDown Browser & Respondus Monitor" as the product to view helpful articles.
- If you're still unable to resolve a technical issue with LockDown Browser, go to support.respondus.com and select "Submit a Ticket". Provide detailed information about your problem and what steps you took to resolve it

Student Engagement and Financial Aid

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 syllabus 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.

The syllabus quiz is a five question multiple choice quiz and can be found under the "Quizzes" tab. The only purpose of the syllabus quiz is to satisfy the financial aid requirement for this class. It will not be included in the calculation of your final grade.

Grading Scale

Assignments will be weighted in the following manner for calculating the final grade.

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Quizzes	20
Film Assignments	20
Discussions	10
Exam 1	25
Exam 2	25
Total	100

Final grades will be awarded according to the following scale.

Letter Grade	Points
A	93.5 - 100
A-	89.5 - 93.4
B+	86.5 - 89.4
B	83.5 - 86.4
B-	79.5 - 83.4
C+	76.5 - 79.4
C	73.5 - 76.4
C-	69.5 - 73.4
D+	66.5 - 69.4
D	63.5 - 66.4
D-	59.5 - 63.4
F	59.4 or below

Policies for Course Grade

Makeup Work Policy

I will not allow missed assignments to be made up without a documented university excused absence. If you know ahead of time that you will be unable to complete a module on time please inform me prior to the closing time. If you cannot inform me ahead of time, please inform me within one business day of the closing of the module either via phone or email. Date and time of makeup modules will be determined by the instructor on a case by case basis. I reserve the right to change the format and questions of makeup modules at my discretion.

If you miss an assignment without a documented university accepted excuse, I will accept assignments with penalty. These penalties begin at 10% per business day that the assignment is late. I encourage you to contact me as quickly as possible if you miss an assignment to make arrangements for late submission.

Course Accessibility

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Code of Conduct at Student Conduct and Integrity Office. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

a. Academic misconduct is defined as any submitted work or behavior that obstructs the instructor of record's ability to accurately assess the student's understanding or completion of the course materials or degree requirements (e.g., assignment, quiz, and/or exam). Examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to: plagiarism, unauthorized assistance to complete an academic exercise; unauthorized communication with others during an examination, course assignment, or project; falsifying or misrepresenting academic work; providing misleading information to create a personal advantage to complete course/degree requirements; or multiple submission(s) of academic work without permission of the instructor of record.

b. Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.

c. Commercial Use of Academic Material. Selling of course material to another person and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the University and the instructor of record. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, the instructor of record's

slide deck, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, and handouts.

d. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements. The solicitation of assistance with an assignment, lab, quiz, test, paper, etc., without authorization of the instructor of record or designee is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to asking for answers to a quiz, trading answers, or offering to pay another to complete an assignment. It is considered Academic Misconduct to solicit assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements, even if the solicitation did not yield actual assistance (for example, if there was no response to the solicitation).

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule*. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a "Z" designation on one's transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let's avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut.

Title IX

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or

assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at Let's Be Clear and UCF Cares.

For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – OIE – Office of Institutional Equity & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – Student Accessibility Services & sas@ucf.edu
- Access and Community Engagement (including the Ginsberg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement, Military and Veteran Student Success, and HSI Initiatives)
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Office & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- The Ombuds Office is a safe place to discuss concerns.

Reporting an Incident or Issue

If you believe you have experienced abusive or discriminatory behavior by any faculty or staff member, contact the Office of Institutional Equity online or at 407-823-1336. You can also choose to report using the UCF Integrity Line and can report anonymously or as yourself at 1-855-877-6049 or using the online form. UCF cares about you and takes every report seriously. For more information see the Reporting an Incident or Issue Webpage.

Deployed Active-Duty Military Students

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Campus Safety

At UCF Public Safety and Police, safety is the top priority. Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise, it's important to be familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In an emergency, always dial 911.
- Every UCF classroom has an **Emergency Procedure Guide** posted on a wall near the door, which will show you how to respond to a variety of situations. This guide can also be found online here.
- In the event of an active threat, remember **AVOID, DENY, DEFEND**. Choose the best course of action and act immediately. Watch the video here to learn more.
    - **AVOID**. Pay attention to your surroundings and have an exit plan. Get as much distance and as many barriers between you and the threat as quickly as possible.
    - **DENY.** When avoiding is difficult or impossible, deny the threat access to you and your space. Lockdown by creating barriers, turning the lights off and remaining quiet and out of sight. Make sure your cell phone is silenced, but do not turn it off.
    - **DEFEND.** When you are unable to put distance between yourself and the threat, be prepared to protect yourself. Commit to your actions, be aggressive and do not fight fairly. Do whatever it takes to survive.
- For emergencies on campus, UCF will utilize the UCF Alert system. All UCF students, faculty and staff are automatically enrolled to receive these email and text alerts, however, it's a good idea to frequently ensure your contact information is up to date.

Financial Aid Accountability

All instructors/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 this activity 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.

Class Schedule

Modules assignments and exams open at midnight on the open date and close at 11:59pm on the close date.

Topic	Readings	Assignments	Date Open	Date Close
Part 1: Weeks 1-7*				
Lecture 1: Politics of Law and Courts	Judicial Process, Ch. 1,2	Lecture 1 Quiz Discussion 1	January 6th	February 24th
Lecture 2: The Federal Court System	Judicial Process, Ch. 3	Lecture 2 Quiz	January 6th	February 24th
Lecture 3: State Judicial Systems	Judicial Process, Ch. 4	Lecture 3 Quiz	January 6th	February 24th
Lecture 4: Judges	Judicial Process, Ch. 6	Lecture 4 Quiz	January 6th	February 24th
Lecture 5: Lawyers	Judicial Process, Ch. 5	Lecture 5 Quiz	January 6th	February 24th
Lecture 6: Litigants, Interest Groups, and the Media	Judicial Process, Ch. 7	Lecture 6 Quiz Discussion 2	January 6th	February 24th
Film Assignment 1: Judicial Elections		Essay	January 6th	February 24th
Week 8				
Exam 1			February 25th	March 3rd
Part 2: Weeks 9-15				
Lecture 7: Civil Trials	Judicial Process, Ch. 10, 11	Lecture 7 Quiz	March 4th	April 21st
Lecture 8: Criminal Trials	Judicial Process, Ch. 8,9	Lecture 8 Quiz	March 4th	April 21st

		Discussion 3		
Lecture 9: Juries	Judicial Process, Ch. 12	Lecture 9 Quiz	March 4th	April 21st
Lecture 10: The Appeals Process	Judicial Process, Ch. 13	Lecture 10 Quiz	March 4th	April 21st
Lecture 11: Supreme Court 1	Judicial Process, Ch. 14	Lecture 11 Quiz Discussion 4	March 4th	April 21st
Lecture 12: Supreme Court 2	Judicial Process, Ch. 15	Lecture 12 Quiz	March 4th	April 21st
Film Assignment 2: Antonin Scalia and Stephen Breyer Film		Essay	March 4th	April 21st
Week 16				
Exam 2			April 22nd	April 28th

Note: All dates and times are subject to change by Dr. Ilderton. Be informed and routinely check the Schedule and Class Email or Announcements for any changes or updates.

*Syllabus quiz for financial aid purposes due by end of 1st week of class or as soon as possible after adding the class.