

## SYLLABUS

Political Science 516: Judicial Politics  
Spring 2000, Call # ~4527A,  
TR 3:30-5:18, Derby Hall Room 0080  
Instructor: Corey Ditslear  
Office: Derby Hall Room 2052  
Office Phone: 292-4476  
e-mail: diL~qI.1(a~(~ii&dil  
Office Hours: TR 1:30-3:30, or by appointment

Political Science 516 will cover judicial politics at both the state and federal level. We will begin with the structure of the federal and state judiciaries including descriptions and analyses of the types of cases brought, the actors in the system, the procedures in court, the selection process for judges, and the jurisdictions of each level of court. We will then proceed to a discussion of the decision-making process focusing primarily on the federal appellate courts. The course will be conducted as a lecture/discussion with some in class activities.

"Politics is the Art of the Possible." from *F;vita*, by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice

Required Books: Available at SBX

Judicial Process in America~ 4th Edition, Robert A. Carp and Ronald Stidham

Jurismania: The Madness of American Law, Paul F. Campos

Assignments & Grading: Your grade in this course will be based on five criteria:

Class Participation	15%
Midterm	25%
Research Paper	30%
Final Exam	30%

**Class Participation:** As much of the course will be taught using discussion and interactive activities, participation is essential to the learning process. If you are absent, you can not participate and thus your grade will suffer. I will not require participation in class activities, but failure to do so will result in a reduction of your grade. Participation can be as simple as asking me to explain something you do not understand, or engaging in the class activity for the day. These should be easy points if you simply attend and are engaged in the course.

**Midterm:** The midterm will consist of between 1 and 3 short answer questions or essay questions, and/or a series of multiple choice questions. The midterm will be conducted during the fifth week of class.

**Research Paper:** A longer research paper of approximately 10-15 pages will be required. Details about this assignment will be handed out in the fifth week. It will be due on the last day of classes.

Final Exam: A final exam will be conducted during the university scheduled exam **time Wednesday, August 30 from 5:30 to 7:18**. The exam will be comprehensive of the entire course material, but will be more heavily weighted towards the material in the last 5 weeks of the quarter. Questions will be drawn from in class discussions and lectures, the textbook, and the reader. The exam will consist of essay, short answer and multiple choice questions.

Extra Credit: There will be opportunities for extra credit provided throughout the quarter. If you choose to take advantage of the extra credit, it will be worth up to 5% of your total course grade.

**No assignments will be accepted for full credit outside scheduled class times without prior approval of the instructor or evidence of ~d~personal or medical extenuating circumstances. Any assignment not following these guidelines will result in a reduction of grade on the assignment. All mak~ups must be completed within I week of the missed assignment unless ~dQii~personal or medical extenuating circumstances exist.**

**Academic Honesty: MI of the work you do** in this course is expected to be your own. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is the use of another person's words without giving credit to the other person. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy as defined in the Code of Sti~dent Conduct.

Disability: Any student who feels that they may need assistance should inform the instructor at the beginning of the quarter so that adequate arrangements can be made.

**Reading and Assignment Schedule:**

Week: Course Introduction Session 1:

Session 2:  
**Read:**

Week 2: Foundations Session 1:

**Read:**  
Session 2:

**Read:**  
Introduction of instructor and materials and expectations, and  
'~judicial politics" defined.

Foundations of Law

**Carp and Stidham, Chapter 1;**

**Campos, Preface and Chapter 1~**

History and Function I

**Carp and Stidham, Chapter 2, through district courts;**

**Campos, Chapter 2.**

**History and Function II**

**Carp and Stidham, Chapter 2, Constitutional Courts to end.**

Week 3 The Players, Part I Session I:

Session 2:

**Read:**

Week 4: The Players, Part II Session 1:

Read:

Session 2:

**Read:**

**No Class, Independence Day.**

Staff

**Carp and Stidham, Chapter 3;**

**Campos, Chapter 3.**

Lawyers.

**Carp and Stidham, Chapter 4, through lawyers and the legal profession;**

**Handout on the legal profession.**

**Litigants and Interest Groups.**

**Carp and Stidham, Chapter 4, from Campos, Chapter 4.**

**Litigants to the end;**

Week 5: The Power to hear cases

Session 1: Jurisdiction

**Read: Carp and Stidham, Chapter 5;  
Campos, Chapter 5.**

Session2: MmI~RM

**Research paper assignment hand out.**

Week 6: Criminal Law Session 1:

Read:

Session 2:

**Read:**

Crimes

**Carp and Stidham, Chapter 6**

**Campos, Chapter 6.**

Criminal Trial

**Carp and Stidham, Chapter 6,**

**through elements of a crime; criminal trial to end.**

Week 7: Civil Trial, and Judges, Part I Session I.

Read:

Session 2:

**Read:**

Week 8: Policy, Part I Session 1:

**Read:**

Session 2:

**Read:**

Civil Trials

**Carp and Stidham, Chapter 7;**

**Campos, Chapter 7.**

Judges, Part I

**Carp and Stidham, Chapter 8, through judicial selection.**

Judges, Part II

**Carp and Stidham, Chapter 8 from links to citizens to end;**

**Campos, Chapter 8.**

**Decision-making and Democracy**

**Carp and Stidham, Chapter 9.**

Week 9: Decision-making Session 1:

**Read:**

Session 2:

**Read:**

Nine Black Robes

**Carp and Stidham, Chapter 10 through small-group analysis;**

**Campos, Chapter 9.**

Attitudes and Preferences

**Carp and Sddham, Chapter 10 from attitude theory to end;**

**Handout on Judicial Activism Debate.**

Week 10: Tying Things Together Session 1: Implementation

**Read: Carp and Stidham, Chapter 11;**

**Campos, Chapter 10**

**Session 2: So What do Judges Really Do?**

**Read: Carp and Stidham, Chapter 12. Research paper due.**

**Statement of Student Responsibility**

I state that I have read and understand the course requirements as laid out in the syllabus for this

course. I take responsibility for completing the assignments as required and take

responsibility  
should I fail to comply with the guidelines for the course. I agree to abide by the Code of Student

~ and understand that failure to do so will result in university academic misconduct proceedings.

I understand that if I need assistance with materials throughout the term the instructor is available to guide me, but that ultimately I am responsible for my own work, and for notifying the instructor if I do have problems. Finally, I understand that courses at the university are taught at a level which requires considerable work, and I am prepared to take on that responsibility.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name:

Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_

Year in School:

M4oriMinor:

E-mail Address;

Phone #:

Prior PoliSci/Govt Courses (H.S. and College):

Prior Political Experience:

Reason for Taking Course:

Course Expectations:

Special Considerations (i.e. disability, graduating senior):

Interesting Tidbit About Myself