

## JUDICIAL POLITICS

Political Science 516  
Mon. & Wed. 8:30-10:18  
Boyd Lab 311

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to understanding how the judicial process works and the relationships between courts and American politics. It will cover the organization of courts, selection of judges, judicial decision-making and judicial policy-making. It will also draw distinctions between the state and federal court systems, as well as appellate and trial courts. Students will be expected to take part in extensive in-class discussion of the various readings and topics.

### REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

The requirements for the class are: two in-class tests; an in-class debate; and a final exam. All exams will consist of 10-15 short answers/short essays. The first test will count for 20% of the grade. The second test will count for 25% of the grade. The final exam will count for 30% of the grade. 15% of the grade will come from your participation in a series of debates we will be having during the last week of the quarter. 10% of the grade will come from your class participation throughout the quarter.

Debate topics are the following: (1) should minors be permitted to obtain abortions without parental consent; (2) should same sex marriage be legal; (3) are restrictions on physician-assisted suicide legal; and (4) should law enforcement officials notify the community when a convicted sex offender moves in. Each debate will have two sides, and each side will have approximately 4-5 people. Each side will work as a team and be graded as a team. Participants in the debate will be expected to have thoroughly researched their topic. Topics and sides will be chosen on October 18<sup>th</sup> in class. We will have two debates per class the last week of classes.

### EXTRA CREDIT

At the beginning of the quarter, someone from the Political Science Department will be coming to class in order to seek volunteers for political psychology experiments conducted in the Political Science Department. Participation is voluntary and usually requires no more than one hour of your time. Anyone who completes participation in an experiment will receive a 3% increase in your grade. Thus, for example, if your final grade calculates to 89, and you participated in an experiment, I will raise your grade 2.67 points, giving you an A- instead of a B+.

## REQUIRED BOOKS ON ORDER AT THE BOOKSTORE

Carp, Robert A., Ronald Stidham and Kenneth L. Manning. 2004. *Judicial Process in America*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. CQ Press (herinafter, “CSM”).

Slotnick, Elliot E., ed. 1999. *Judicial Politics: Readings from Judicature*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. American Judicature Society (herinafter, “ES”).

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. All cases of cheating or plagiarism will be referred to the University’s Committee on Academic Misconduct (“COAM”) and handled according to university policy. For additional information, please visit the COAM website at <http://oaa.osu.coam/code.html>.

## MAKE-UP EXAMS

Unless arranged with the professor PRIOR to an exam, there will be absolutely NO make-up exams in this class. Failure to show up for an exam (unless otherwise pre-arranged with the professor) will result in an automatic F for that test. For those who have obtained permission from the professor for a make-up test, those make-up tests will be given immediately following the final exam. The only acceptable reason for missing an exam without prior permission from the professor will be a medical excuse, and adequate documentation from a physician will be required.

## POLICY ON CELLULAR TELEPHONES

All students MUST turn off their phones prior to the beginning of class. If your phone should ring during class, you will have two points automatically deducted from the next exam. If your phone should ring during an exam, you will have four points deducted from that exam.

## ASSIGNMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

### I. INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL JURISPRUDENCE

Class 1:  
Syllabus Passed Out; Introduction to Class

Class 2:  
CSM pp. 1-20; ES pp. 18-28

### II. THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM

Class 3:  
CSM pp.57-71, 98-108; ES 50-68

Class 4:  
CSM pp. 171-193; ES 129-131

Class 5:  
CSM pp. 23-54,73-78

Class 6:  
CSM pp. 111-145; ES pp. 73-85

Class 7:  
CSM pp. 151-168; ES pp. 529-543

Class 8:  
***Exam # 1***

### III. TRIALS

Class 9:  
CSM pp. 171-194; ES pp. 179-192

Class 10:  
CSM pp. 198-225; ES pp. 211-226, 252-257

Class 11:  
CSM pp. 229-251; ES pp. 314-327

Class 12:  
CSM pp. 256-278; ES pp. 554-562

Class 13:  
CSM pp. 325-354

Class 14:  
***Exam # 2***

### IV. JUDICIAL DECISION-MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS

Classes 15-16:  
Important lectures roughly based on Chs. 12-13 in CSM

Attendance Mandatory

Class 17:  
CSM pp. 362-384

Class 18:  
Handout on *The Hollow Hope*  
Preparation for Debates

Class 19  
Class Canceled

Class 20:  
Debates

Class 21:  
Debates