

Political Science 319: The Judiciary
MWF 3:00-3:50
Morgan Hall 316

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Course Description

This course will examine the judicial system in the United States. We will discuss both the structure and function of the U.S. judiciary including civil vs. criminal cases, trial courts vs. appellate courts, jurisdictional questions, how judges are recruited / hired, judicial decisionmaking, how cases reach the Supreme Court and the impact of courts on larger society. An institutional approach will be used, meaning that students will be encouraged to examine the politics of the judiciary through an analysis of the rules and procedures that govern the institution.

In addition to covering these and other topics through the readings, lecture, and discussion this course is designed to allow students to participate in examining current research on the courts through the development of a research paper designed around a specific explanatory research question. Students will engage in writing a paper proposal, an annotated bibliography, and completing a first draft and a final research paper. Students will also be expected to give a brief presentation of their paper research to the class at the end of the semester.

Required Texts

Baum, Lawrence. 2013. *American Courts: Process and Policy*. 7th Edition. Boston: Wadsworth.
Baum in schedule

Segal, Jeffrey A., Harold J. Spaeth and Sara C. Benesh. 2005. *The Supreme Court in the American Legal System*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
SCALS in schedule

Other assigned readings and articles will be available on D2L (Western Online).

Expectations

I expect all students to behave as professionals. Any student who is disruptive will be asked to leave. This includes such things as reading the newspaper, talking during lecture or being disrespectful to the instructor or other students. Students are expected to arrive on time, complete all work including readings, and ask early and often if you need additional assistance. *Late work will not be accepted* nor will make-up exams be given without a legitimate excuse. I reserve the right to impose grade deductions up to 15 points per day for late work if necessary.

Course Requirements and Grading

All assignments and exams will be graded out of 100 points and individual assignment grades will be posted on Western Online.

Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Paper Proposal	5%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
Draft Workshops	5%
First Draft	10%
Paper Presentation	5%
Final Paper	20%
Attendance / Participation	5%

Exams

There will be two exams in this course, a midterm comprising 15% of your final grade and a final exam comprising 20% of your final grade. Both exams will include some multiple choice, true/false, and identification. The midterm will include a short essay while the final exam will require a longer, more comprehensive essay to be written during the final exam period. Exam dates are noted below in the schedule and time will be allotted during class for review.

Paper Assignment

In addition to the two exams, this course also requires the development and completion of a research paper. The final paper will be 10-15 pages in length and should seek to answer a specific research question through the analysis of existing scholarly research. This assignment includes the completion of a paper proposal (5%), an annotated bibliography (15%), a first draft (10%) that will go through some writing workshops in class (5%), and a final draft (20%) to be completed by the end of the semester. Finally, students will be expected to give a brief presentation of their research at the end of the semester (5%). Additional handouts detailing each of these components will be distributed as noted in the schedule. These handouts will be your roadmap for completing all of the components of this assignment and will include details on how each component will be graded. The paper assignment, in total, constitutes 60% of the final grade; thus, students should begin working on the paper immediately.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance will be taken daily and counts for 5% of your final grade. Students are allowed to miss two classes before suffering a deduction. After two unexcused absences, students will lose one percentage point per absence. Thus, if you only miss two classes, you still have your full 5%. If you miss three classes, you have 4% for your attendance grade. If you miss four classes, you have 3% of your attendance grade, and so on. If you need to miss class and have a university-approved excuse or some other documented excused absence, please contact the professor to ensure that you do not receive a deduction.

Grading Scale

100-93	A	87-83	B	77-73	C	67-63	D
92-90	A-	82-80	B-	72-70	C-	62-60	D-
89-88	B+	79-78	C+	69-68	D+	59-0	F

Academic Integrity

I take the possession of “intellectual property” extremely seriously, as does the University. As such, no form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. You are required to familiarize yourself with the university’s Student Rights and Responsibilities and Academic Integrity Policies, which are available at the following URLs:

<http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students/>

<http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>

Anyone caught cheating or in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to punishment under the guidelines laid out by the policy.

You can also visit <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml> for more details and an excellent discussion of what constitutes plagiarism. “I didn’t know” will not be a valid excuse. My expectations and instructions for citation format will be laid out in detail in the paper assignment instructions, to be distributed as noted in the schedule.

Special Needs

In accordance with University policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies me of the need for an accommodation. For me to provide the proper accommodation(s) you must obtain documentation of the need for an accommodation through the Disability Resource Center and provide it to me. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to my attention, as I am not legally permitted to inquire about such particular needs of students. Students who may require special assistance in emergency evacuations (i.e. fire, tornado, etc.) should contact me as to the most appropriate procedures to follow in such an emergency. Contact the Disability Resource Center at 298-2512 for additional services.

Writing Center

The University Writing Center is available to assist you with general and specific questions on writing assigned in any discipline and at any academic level. The one-on-one assistance available at the Writing Center is valuable for generating ideas, talking about global-level issues such as organization, and even working through grammatical problems. The University Writing Center is located in Simpkins Hall 341. Call for an appointment (298-2815) and be sure to bring a copy of your assignment.

Course Schedule / Reading Assignments

I reserve the right to make changes to schedule as needed and will inform students of the assigned readings where the schedule denotes TBA. Students will be informed of any changes via email and in class.

Week of 8/20

Monday 8/20 – course introduction

Wednesday 8/22 and Friday 8/24 – Baum Chapter 1; SCALS Chapter 1 & 2

Week of 8/27

Monday 8/27 – General Court Organization – Baum Chapter 2

Wednesday 8/29 – Lawyers – Baum Chapter 3

Friday 8/31 – *Paper Instructions Handed Out* – please read “*The Shadow Scholar*” – will be available on D2L (Western Online)

Week of 9/3

Monday 9/3 – *No Class*

Wednesday 9/5 and Friday 9/7 – Civil Procedure – Baum Chapter 7; SCALS Chapter 4

Week of 9/10

Monday 9/10 – Evidence – SCALS Chapter 5

Wednesday 9/12 and Friday 9/14 – Criminal Procedure – Baum Chapter 6; SCALS Chapter 6

Week of 9/17

Criminal Procedure and Criminal Law

Special issues and articles TBA. All articles will be available on D2L (Western Online)

Friday 9/21 *Paper Proposal Due in Class*

Week of 9/24

State Courts – Baum pgs. 101-120; SCALS Chapter 7

Week of 10/1

District Courts – Baum pgs. 98-100; SCALS Chapter 8

Weeks of 10/8 AND 10/15

Appellate Courts – Baum Chapters 8 and 9; SCALS Chapter 9

Friday 10/12 – *No Class*

Week of 10/22

Monday 10/22 – in class review

Wednesday 10/24 – *Midterm in class*

Friday 10/26 – *Annotated Bibliography Due in Class*

Week of 10/29

Staffing the Court and Certiorari – Baum pgs. 94-96; SCALS Chapters 10 and 11

Week of 11/5 – ELECTION 2012

Supreme Court Decisionmaking and Opinion Writing – SCALS Chapters 12 and 13
Article TBA, time permitting

Week of 11/12

1st Draft Workshops – First Draft Turned in on Friday 11/16 at the end of class.

Week of 11/19 – *NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK*

Week of 11/26

Judicial Impact and Compliance– SCALS Chapter 14
Article TBA, time permitting

Week of 12/3

Paper Presentations

Final Papers Due Friday 12/7 9:00 p.m.

Final Exam Wednesday December 12th 3:00-4:50