

POLS 4740: Judicial Process and Behavior - Fall 2016

Dr. Christina L. Boyd

Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:15pm, Journalism Rm 504

Office Hours: by appointment

Office: Bank of America Building (Clayton/Lumpkin), Rm 413

[enter building on Clayton, near Cutter's Pub (not main bank entrance)]

Email: cLboyd@uga.edu

Course Description:

This course examines courts and judges (broadly speaking) in the United States and abroad. Our focus will include topics such as the organization of courts, role of judges, the selection of judges, judicial legitimacy, and criminal and civil trial courts.

Grading:

Quiz 1: 15%

Quiz 2: 30%

Quiz 3: 30%

Assignments/Events: 20%

Attendance/Participation-5%

A:	94-100	C:	74-77
A-:	90-93	C-:	70-73
B+:	88-89	D+:	68-69
B:	84-87	D:	64-67
B-:	80-83	D-:	60-63
C+:	78-79	F:	< 60

Quizzes: The three quizzes will combine multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions. Makeup quizzes are only permitted in extraordinary circumstances such as documented medical emergencies. The quizzes will test material from your readings, lectures, and class discussions. Unless otherwise noted, quizzes will NOT be cumulative. **Incompletes will not be given in this class, so please plan ahead.**

Assignments/Events: In addition to the three quizzes, we will also have four major assignments and events, each worth 5% of your final grade (i.e., 20% total). These assignments and events will be further detailed at the appropriate time during the semester but will include (1) a writing assignment related to prospective future Supreme Court nominations from Trump and Clinton, (2) a small group project producing campaign videos for elected state judges, (3) a mini-research design, and (4) participation in a jury selection and jury trial simulation.

Attendance and Participation: It is entirely at the discretion of students to decide whether to attend class on a given day. It is the responsibility of students who miss class to keep up with missed notes (from fellow students) and assignments from missed lectures. Students should expect to score well in the participation/attendance portion of the class if they have strong attendance and/or exceptional in-class participation, including during group activities. Note that attendance will not be taken every class and will be aided through seating assignments (selected during the first week of class).

Academic Integrity: Please see UGA's extensive policies on academic honesty (<http://honesty.uga.edu>). Be aware that under no circumstances will cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty be tolerated in this class.

Required Course Materials:

Pamela C. Corley, Artemus Ward, and Wendy L. Martinek. 2016. *American Judicial Process: Myth and Reality in Law and Courts*. ISBN: 978-0-415-53298-3 [**noted as AJP below**]

Other required course readings will be made available on the web (eLc: <https://uga.view.usg.edu/>) as is necessary.

Schedule: Assignment dates are approximate. We may have to adjust them slightly depending on our speed during the semester. However, barring emergency, the dates for quizzes and key graded events will not change. **Note:** Unless otherwise noted, all assigned reading is to be conducted prior to the class for which it is listed.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u> (to be read <i>prior</i> to class)
8-11	Syllabus	N/A
8-16	Course Introduction; Supreme Court Introduction	High Court background (assigned in class)
8-18, 8-23	Role of and introduction to courts and legal actors; thinking like a social scientist	AJP chapter 1
8-25, 8-30	Court organization in the U.S.	AJP chapter 4
9-1, 9-6	Court organization abroad	Neubauer [27-32]; Zaphiriou [47-55]; Melone [257-261]
9/8	Quiz 1	N/A
9-13, 9-15	Selection of federal judges	AJP pg 139-161; Boydetal2015[Forum]
9-20, 9-27, 9-29	Selection of state judges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9/20: Assign #1 (Supreme Court) due @ start of class • 9/22: No class (Dr. Boyd @ conference) • 9/28 @ 9:00pm: Assign #2 state elections video due (details in class) 	(1) AJP pg 161-178 (2) <i>Republican Party v. White</i> (3) McCall
10-4	Judicial decision making (legal model) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10/6: No class (Dr. Boyd @ conference) 	Unah [pgs 139-148]; Murphy [pgs 438-450]
10/11	Judicial decision making (attitudes, strategy, public opinion, legitimacy)	Unah [pgs 148-155]; Murphy [366-378]
10-13	Judicial decision making (diversity and beyond)	Boyd et al. [389-408]; Women in Robes[83-88] ; Kastellec 2013
10/18	Quiz 2	N/A

10-20, 10-25	Trial Courts: Civil Cases	AJP chapter 6
10-27	Lawyers	AJP chapter 3
11-1, 11-3	Civil Cases and Lawyers Application	Esquibel [1325-1346; skim footnotes]
11-8	The Social Security Adjudication Crisis	HaireLindquist80Judicature230; Achieving Greater Consistency
11-10	Civil litigation and tort reform, Civil Litigation Comparison: U.S. and U.K.	Tarr [pgs 189-207]; review AJP pgs 221-222; Mather [192-210]
11-15, 11-17	Juries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11/17: Assign #3 due @ start of class 	AJP chapter 8; Vidmar and Hans [pgs 65-81]
11-22, 11-24	Thanksgiving – No Class	N/A
11-29, 12-1	Jury Event/Simulation (voir dire, trial, deliberation scenarios) [This is Assign #4]	TBA
Exam week TBA	Quiz 3	N/A

Note: If you plan to attend law school, chapter 2 of our textbook is a great information resource for you. We will not cover this material in class.