

POLS 4740: Judicial Process and Behavior - Fall 2018

Dr. Christina L. Boyd

Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:15pm, Baldwin Rm 301

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm and by appointment

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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:

Exam 1: 35%

Exam 2: 35%

Assignments/Events: 30%

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

Exams: The two exams will combine multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Makeup quizzes are only permitted in extraordinary circumstances such as documented medical emergencies. The exams 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: We will also have four major assignments and events. These assignments and events will be further detailed at the appropriate time during the semester but will include (1) a writing assignment related to the Supreme Court nomination process (7.5% of final grade), (2) a writing assignment related to attorney advertising (7.5% of final grade), (3) a small group project producing campaign videos for elected state judges (5% of final grade) and (4) participation in and written material relating to a trial court jury selection event (10% of final grade).

Attendance and Participation: This is the type of class where you will do better on your exams and assignments if you regularly and actively attend class. However, 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. Students with strong attendance and in-class participation should expect to see close final grades be computed in their favor. Note that we will have seating assignments to help me more quickly learn your names (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)
8-14	Syllabus	N/A
8-16, 8-21	Role of and introduction to courts and legal actors; Supreme Court current events introduction	AJP chapter 1; Kilgore2018
8-23, 8-28	Court organization in the U.S.	AJP chapter 4
8-30	No Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Boyd @ American Political Science Association annual conference • Finish Assignment #1 	N/A
9-4, 9-6	Court organization abroad <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9-3 by 8:00pm: Assignment #1 (Supreme Court letter) due on eLC 	Neubauer [27-32]; Zaphiriou [47-55]; Melone [257-261]; Walker [406-426]
9-11, 9-13	Civil litigation and tort reform, Civil Litigation Comparison: U.S. and U.K. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice exam at start of class on 9-13 	AJP chapter 6; Tarr [pgs 189-207]; Mather [192-210]
9-18, 9-20	Lawyers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini-review for exam 1 on 9-20 	AJP chapter 3
9-25	Exam 1	N/A
9-27, 10-2	Civil Cases and Lawyers Application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-3 by 8:00pm: Assign #2 (lawyer advertising) due on eLC 	Esquibel [1325-1346; skim footnotes]
10-4, 10-9	Selection of federal judges	AJP [139-161]; Boydetal2015[Forum]
10-11, 10-16, 10-18	Selection of state judges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-17 by 8:00pm: Assign #3 state elections video due (follow submission directions) 	(1) AJP [161-178] (2) <i>Republican Party v. White</i> (3) McCall

10-23	Judicial decision making (legal model, attitudes)	Unah [pgs 139-148]; Murphy [pgs 438-450]
10-25, 10-30	Judicial decision making (strategy, public opinion, legitimacy)	Unah [pgs 148-155]; Murphy [366-378]
11-1	Judicial decision making (diversity and beyond)	Boyd et al. [389-408]; Women in Robes[83-88]; Kastellec 2013
11-6, 11-13	Juries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Class on 11-8 – Dr. Boyd at Conference on Empirical Legal Studies • Mini-review for exam 2 on 11-13 	AJP chapter 8; Vidmar and Hans [pgs 65-81]; Juror Bill of Rights
11-15	Exam 2	N/A
11-20, 11-22	Thanksgiving Break – No Class	N/A
11-27	Group preparation time in-class for jury event [This is part of Assign #4]	Frederick; Blue
11-29	Jury Event/Simulation takes place [This is part of Assign #4] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring to class 2 copies each of required materials on 11-29 	Preparation for event

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.