

## **POLS 4740H: Judicial Process and Behavior - Fall 2019**

Dr. Christina L. Boyd

Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:15pm, Baldwin Rm 104

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 decision making, judicial legitimacy, lawyers, and juries.

### **Grading:**

Exam: 30%

Assignments: 20%

Participation: 25%

Research paper: 25%

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		

**Incompletes will not be given in this class, so please plan ahead.**

**Exam:** An in-class essay-based exam will be administered during the semester. Sample essay questions and format discussion will be provided prior to the exam.

**Assignments/Events:** We will also have four major assignments, with each worth 5% of your grade. These assignments will be further detailed at the appropriate time during the semester but will be related to the Supreme Court nomination process, judicial elections, factors affecting judicial behavior, and attorney advertising.

**Participation:** This small course requires active participation from prepared students. Active participation should extend to discussion of class readings and in-class activities such as the jury voir dire event. Quality is more important than quantity. It is the responsibility of students who miss class to keep up with missed notes (from fellow students) and assignments.

**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:**

There is no course textbook. Required course readings are posted on eLC.

**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. 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) Minor additional readings may be announced in class.
8-15	Course introduction, syllabus	
8-20; 8-22	Courts, legal actors, and law	Murphy 3-7; 38-67
8-27	Court organization in U.S. • <b>8-29: No class</b>	Baum 19-48; 245-256
9-3	Courts Abroad Application	Freccero 1994 (skip footnotes)
9-5; 9-10; 9-12	Federal judicial selection • Assignment #1 due on eLC: 9-11	Steigerwalt Martinek; Corley
9-17; 9-24; 9-26; 10-1	State judicial selection • Assignment #2 due: 9-30 by 6pm • <b>10-3: No class</b>	Bonneau Rice; <i>Republican Party v. White (Majority, Stevens, Ginsburg)</i> ; McCall; Gibson Nelson 2017
10-8; 10-10	Judicial decision making – Legal Model	Unah [pgs 139-148]; Murphy [pgs 30-33; 438-459; 476-477]
10-15	Judicial decision making – Attitudinal Model • Data sources discussion for paper	Segal Champlin
10-17	Judicial decision making – Strategic Model; Collegial courts • Practice exam question(s) distributed	Epstein Knight-chap1; Epstein Lindquist 2017; Sunstein 2002
10-22	Judicial decision making – Public Opinion; Legitimacy; Responsiveness	Kuklinski Stanga; Gibson Caldeira Spence; Gibson Caldeira Baird
10-24	Judicial decision making – other factors • Assignment #3 due on eLC: 10-23 • Exam discussion	[reading on assigned individual factor – see assignment]
10-29	<b>Exam – in class</b>	
10-31; 11-5	Civil Cases and Lawyers Application	Esquibel [1325-1346; skim footnotes]
11-5; 11-12; 11-14	Lawyers & Legal Culture • 11-7: No Class (work on Assignment 4) • Assignment #4 and related presentations due in-class (per directions): 11-14	Tarr; Galanter Lawyer
11-14; 11-19; 11-21	Juries • Includes prep for jury voir dire event	Vidmar and Hans [pgs 65-105]; Juror Bill of Rights; Miller [pgs 64-82]
11-26	Research paper time, individual meetings • <b>11-28: No class-Thanksgiving</b>	
12-3	Jury-voir dire event	
12-9 by 9:00am	Research papers due on eLC	