

JUDICIAL POLITICS 4023
2021 SPRING SEMESTER
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
CLASSROOM HOURS 5-7:50 P.M.

INSTRUCTOR: ELI J. ABAD
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OFFICE HOURS: ONE (1) HOUR FOLLOWING EACH SCHEDULED CLASS OR BY
APPOINTMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the litigation process within the American legal system. Emphasis will be placed on examinations of the federal system, the state system, and the fundamental principles of law associated within those systems. Students will study the organization of the courts and learn the roles of individuals that work within the systems. Specific areas of study will include [but are not limited to] jurisdiction and venue, the persons that are active within the system, civil litigation, the role of law enforcement within the criminal setting, specialized courts, appellate litigation, the use of technology in the courtroom, the use of social media within the systems, Louisiana politics, and other issues related to the legal system. Additionally, students will draft documents that relate to concepts in this course.

COURSE MATERIAL

Lawrence Baum, 2001 American Courts: Process and Policy*

Lawrence Baum, 2004 The Supreme Court*

*editions printed after the listed dates will be sufficient

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will learn how judges, attorneys, witnesses, and litigation parties interact within our legal system and the significance of their interactions. Also, students will gain an understanding about the structures, organizations, and processes of court systems. Upon the completion of this course, the student will be able to describe the state and federal court system, understand issues related to litigation, identify the role of the persons in the litigation process, and have personal contact with individuals associated with the legal system either in a classroom setting and/or courtroom setting.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend all virtual classes. Advanced arrangements should be made with the instructor should there be a need to miss class. A student missing class is responsible for all materials, notes, etc. disseminated in the missed class. Written documentation must be provided immediately upon return to support an excused absence. An attendance record will be kept. Students

are required to attend class, be prepared for classroom discussions, and participate in class. Students are responsible to know the LSU attendance policy.

HOW TO CONTACT ME

The best way to contact me is by email. I will make every effort to answer your questions in a timely manner (usually within 24 hours during the normal workweek). I will also hold office hours immediately after our scheduled class lecture, when you make ask questions after lecture via Zoom or telephone me (504-256-5413). If you would like to set up an alternative time to meet with me, email me and we can schedule a time that is mutually convenient.

CLASS POLICIES

Respectful behavior is expected at all times. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students are expected to give their undivided attention during Zoom lectures. Class begins promptly at 5:00 p.m. You will be expected to be logged into Zoom by 5:00 p.m. The instructor reserves the right to have someone stand in for said instructor or convert the live Zoom session to posted lecture should extraordinary circumstances exist preventing the instructor's availability for a specific class. Should the live Zoom be converted to posted lectures, the lecture notes, recorded lectures, etc, will be posted on Moodle. It is the responsibility of each student to review the posted material in a timely manner. Posted lectures will not be accessible prior to or during any examinations.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Cheating and Plagiarism [in any form] will not be tolerated. In general, cheating should be construed as depriving [in any form] someone [or obtaining from someone/ something] of something of value by deceit, fraud, dishonesty, etc. In general, plagiarism should be construed as taking [in any form] the ideas of another and passing the ideas off as one's own [without crediting the source]. Penalties for cheating and plagiarism will be in conformity with the LSU standards. Further, students will not be given any credit/ score for individual projects that are the products of cheating and/or plagiarism.

POLICY ON DEADLINES:

In an effort to provide a level playing field, I take deadlines very seriously and hold everyone to an identical standard. If you encounter a problem that prevents you for meeting a deadline, please contact me. I understand that problems can arise and I will accommodate difficulties that you may encounter as long as your issues are communicated to me in a timely manner. Be prepared to provide documentation.

LIBRARY/LEARNING RESOURCES: Students are encouraged to utilize the library/ learning resources center in enhancing skills, using resources, and developing reading enjoyment.

GRADING

The final grade in this course is based upon the total score of the following:

- Mid-term examination [100 total points]
- Final examination [CUMULATIVE] [100 total points]
- Written analytical paper one [15 total points]
- Written analytical paper two [20 total points]
- Written analytical paper three [50 total points]
- Classroom participation/ attendance [35 total points]

TOTAL POINTS 320 TOTAL POINTS

**bonus points [discretionary] [5-15 per assignment; added to total semester points]

There will be **TWO EXAMINATIONS** during the semester. The exams will cover material from lectures, readings, handouts, and information provided by guest speakers. Various handouts may be provided through Moodle throughout the semester. All material are intended to complement each other. Thus, some of what you may read may not be discussed in class and some lecture material may go beyond what you read. Each student is responsible for **ALL** material. *****PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FINAL IS CUMULATIVE***** The exams will consist of short answer questions. The format of the exam may be modified at the discretion of the instructor. Makeup examinations may be allowed based solely upon the discretion of the instructor and only for those absences necessitated by a legitimate, documented medical emergency.

WRITTEN ANALYTICAL ASSIGNMENTS will be due prior to the taking of examinations. The due dates for uploading these assignments through the Moodle site are listed on the syllabus. It is your responsibility to keep track of these deadlines and complete the assignments on time. **There are no grace periods for these assignments and submitting them after the deadline will result in a substantial reduction of points (if credit is earned).** I recognize, however, there are legitimate reasons for missing a deadline. If you experience a significant problem that prevents you from submitting an assignment, it is your responsibility to inform me as soon as possible and to provide any appropriate documentation (e.g. doctor's note). Finally, remember that these are individual assignments that must be completed without the assistance of others. As noted above, cheating or plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.

PARTICIPATION is based on regular virtual attendance, preparation, the student's Zoom discussion, and is discretionary with the instructor. Participation is an important element within your grade. Attendance will be taken during every Zoom lecture. Students are reminded that just logging in through Zoom is not sufficient for earning

full credit for class participation. ***THE INSTRUCTOR SPECIFICALLY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE AN APPROPRIATE GRADE BASED [IN PART] ON THE QUALITY OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MATERIAL CONTRIBUTED BY THE STUDENT DURING CLASS DISCUSSION.***

BONUS POINTS may be awarded during the semester based upon bonus projects. The decision to administer [or not] bonus projects is a discretionary choice made by the instructor. In conjunction with LSU policy, a ‘plus/minus’ grading scale will be utilized in this class relative to course grades. Any questions regarding specific school policy in this matter should be addressed through the LSU Registrar’s Office.

GRADING SCALE [TOTAL POINTS]

- A+ = 320-310
- A = 309-299
- A- = 298-288
- *****
- B+ = 287-277
- B = 276-266
- B- = 265-255
- *****
- C+ = 254-244
- C = 243-233
- C- = 232-222
- *****
- D+ = 221-211
- D = 210-200
- D- = 199-190
- *****
- F = 189 or below

DISABILITY STATEMENT: Any student eligible for and needing reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments because of a disability should speak with the instructor in person by January 21, 2021. Further, LSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. The syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. If you have a hidden or visible disability that may require classroom or test accommodations, please see contact the instructor by January 21, 2021. If you have not already done so, register with the appropriate campus department related to disability services.

SPECIAL NOTES: Continued enrollment in this course indicates acceptance of course policy. This syllabus is subject to change. The attached class schedule is tentative and may be subject to change. Changes will be announced in class. You are required to keep this syllabus and refer to it during the semester. You are responsible for all material/data/information presented in this class and all information contained within the class syllabus.

**TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE
2021 SPRING SEMESTER**

January 14, 2021 Class introduction/orientation

January 21, 2021 Fundamental Principles of Law [A.C.] ch. 1

January 28, 2021 The Organization of Our Legal System [1]; [A.C.] ch. 2
Written analytical assignment 1

February 4, 2021 Lawyers as Advocates; [A.C.] ch. 3

February 11, 2021 Civil Courts [A.C.] ch. 7
Written analytical assignment 1 due

February 18, 2021 Judges as Impartial Magistrates; [A.C.] chs. 4 & 5

February 25, 2021 Law enforcement and the courts ***
Written analytical assignment 2
MIDTERM REVIEW

March 4, 2021 **MIDTERM *****

March 11, 2021 Criminal Courts [A.C.] ch. 6

March 18, 2021 Specialized Courts ***
Written analytical assignment 2 due

March 25, 2021 **NO CLASS; SPRING BREAK**

April 1, 2021 Appellate Courts/Supreme Courts
Written analytical assignment 3

[A.C.] chs. 8 & 9
[S.C.] chs. 4, 5, 6

April 8, 2021 La. Politics; Social Media ***
Written analytical assignment 2

April 16, 2021 TBD

April 22, 2021 **FINAL EXAM REVIEW; *****
Written analytical assignment 3 due

April 29, 2021 FINAL EXAM 8-9 PM