

SYLLABUS

Political Science 390

- Sections:** 501 (M: 2:00-3:00pm; Th-7:00-8:00pm, online)
Instructor: Tim Kalinowski
Office Hours: communicate via email or blackboard (bb.siue.edu)
Office Phone: communicate via email or blackboard
Email: tkalino@siue.edu (put POLS390 in your subject line)
Website: <http://www.timski.com/POLS390/>
Texts: Calvi & Coleman, *American Law and Legal Systems*, Seventh Edition (Boston: Pearson Education, 2012)
Carter & Burke: *Reason in Law*, Eighth Edition (New York: Pearson-Longman, 2009)
Murphy, Pritchett, Epstein & Knight: *Courts, Judges, & Politics – An Introduction to the Judicial Process*, Sixth Edition (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2006)
(*excerpts posted in blackboard*)

THE PURPOSES OF THIS COURSE ARE:

- 1) To introduce you to the major elements of the U.S. court systems (i.e. their development, organization, and operation), and to increase your understanding of them.
- 2) To increase your understanding of the roles and powers of courts, judges, juries, and attorneys.
- 3) To increase your understanding of the types of cases litigated in our civil court system (i.e. contracts, torts, property, family, and administrative law).
- 4) To increase your interest in and awareness of the impact of courts in American politics.
- 5) To increase your writing skills.
- 6) To increase your oral presentation skills.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

The basic reading assignment for this course is the Calvi text. Please consult the schedule at the end of this syllabus. There will be additional assigned readings which may include court opinions. You may find it necessary and/or useful to read the text through more than once. *Readings should be completed prior to the day scheduled.* Please recognize that this is a tentative schedule and be aware that additional readings or omitted readings maybe be announced in class.

PARTICIPATION

Class participation will be 10% of your grade. Credit for class participation can be earned two ways: 1) discussion during the scheduled “lectures” or 2) posting relevant questions and comments on the course bulletin board or forums. Email directed solely to the instructor will not count as participation. For full credit, you will be expected to post at least two meaningful contributions per chapter and participate in one of the two online chats per week.

LECTURES/OFFICE HOURS:

This is an online course that will use multiple forms of communication: email, text chat, and (possibly) voice chat. The lectures will be used to answer questions to help clarify the material. Each scheduled time will start with answering any questions regarding that day's assigned materials. Once those matters are addressed, we will discuss the issues you should have spotted in the reading as well as some related material.

EXAMINATION AND PAPERS:

Exam – There will be a “mid-term” exam and a final exam. The mid-term exam will makeup 30% of your grade and cover all course material assigned prior to the date of the exam. There will be a final exam as indicated on the schedule that will makeup 30% of your grade and cover all course material assigned after the mid-term exam. The exams will generally require students to write one page essays to the questions posed.

Papers – You will have to write a research paper in this class. Students will be assigned a topic specific to issues involving the judiciary. This paper will be treated as an original “brief” to a court, and will be worth 30% of your grade. Details for expectations and form regarding these papers are under Coursework in Blackboard.

COURSE FORMAT:

The format of the course will be online and primarily discussion. Relevant questions are always in order.

Please understand that each scheduled class represents about one week of a normal semester. The reading load is quite high, and that is before adding the research that will be necessary for the papers.

GRADES:

Your final grade will be determined on a percentage basis roughly as follows:

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

below 60% = F

The course grade will be determined as follows:

30% - Mid-term Exam

30% - Final Exam

30% - Paper

10% - Participation in online discussions

The usual restrictions and/or regulations in university classes will apply in this course:

1) Cheating (including plagiarism) will not be tolerated; those who are caught cheating will fail the course.

2) Attendance is required, and students may be penalized for missing class.

3) Tests are to be taken when scheduled. Make-up exams will be given only for compelling reasons.

4) No photographing, recording, or otherwise capturing the image or voice of students or faculty is allowed without permission. Anyone who does so will be removed from the class and receive a grade of F.

Schedule (Subject to Change)

Date	Activity
	<i>All indicated chapters are in the Calvi&Coleman textbook</i>
	<i>M-#. # refers to readings at the end of chapters in the Murphy textbook</i>
	<i>RIL-pgs refers to the Reason in Law textbook</i>
June 4	Ch 1 pgs 1-16, <i>RIL-pg xiv. RIL-pgs 160-164</i>
June 7	Ch 2 pgs 21-41; Ch 3 pgs 44-56
June 11	Ch 4 pgs 81-104
June 14	Ch 4 pgs 104-118; <i>RIL pgs 17-21 (Prochnow)</i>
June 18	Ch 11 pgs 279-299
June 21	Ch 12 pgs 301-312
June 25	Ch 12 pgs 312-326
June 28	Paper Due
	plus for class 6/28 --- Ch 10 pgs 260-277
July 2	Ch 13 pgs 331-349
July 5	Ch 13 pgs 349-355
July 9	Exam 1 due by class time;
	plus for class 7/9 --- <i>M-9.7</i> ; Ch 3 pgs 56-77; Ch 5 pgs 121-136;
July 12	Ch 6 pgs 138-146; <i>M-2.2</i> ;
July 16 ***	Ch 6 146-170; <i>RIL71-93</i> ;
July 19	<i>M11.2, M12.2, M12.4, M12.7</i> ;
July 23	<i>Brown v Board (link on course website)</i> ;
July 27	Final (covering material 7/9-7/23 plus all terminology)

*** This is a lot of reading. Plan accordingly.

Students needing accommodations because of medical diagnosis or major life impairment will need to register with Accessible Campus Community & Equitable Student Support (ACCESS) and complete an intake process before accommodations will be given. The ACCESS office is located in the Student Success Center, Room 1270. You can also reach the office by e-mail at myaccess@siue.edu or by calling 618.650.3726. For more information on policies, procedures, or necessary forms, please visit the ACCESS website at www.siu.edu/access

Code of conduct (borrowed from Dr. DeGarmo but with minor edits):

Student Conduct in Class:

Political Science is a field of debate and disagreement - that is what is so exciting about this field. But given that Political Science can be a contentious subject, some simple rules of behavior will be required. First, no behavior that manifests a lack of respect for others or their learning objectives will be tolerated. Should you engage in disrespectful, hostile, racist, demeaning or disruptive behavior, you will be removed from class immediately. It is absolutely crucial that everyone feel comfortable stating and defending his or her own views.

Academic Honesty and Integrity:

Academic honesty and integrity are the keystones of education. Genuine learning can only occur in an atmosphere of honesty and integrity. Honesty and integrity also provide the foundation to good citizenship. You should consult the SIUE policy on honesty and integrity before taking this class. In regard to academic dishonesty: No kind or degree of academic dishonesty (i.e. cheating or plagiarism) will be tolerated. Any such behavior on any assignment will result in failing the course and additional measures taken through official channels. There are no exceptions to this rule – you plagiarize and you fail the course. For more information about student ethics and behavior see the paragraph below which is taken from the Undergraduate Catalogue:

"Student Social Conduct, Student Academic Conduct, Student Grievance: Students enrolling in the University assume responsibility for conduct compatible with the learning environment of the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the Student Social Conduct Code, Student Academic Code, and Student Grievance Code. These policies describe the University's expectations for student conduct, sanctions imposed for violations of the standards, and procedures which students may follow in filing grievances. The University gives high priority to matters of academic ethics and abhors all types of cheating, including plagiarism. Plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one's own and may consist of copying or otherwise using written or oral work of another without proper acknowledgment of the source. Instructors may impose sanctions for academic cheating in accordance with the Student Academic Code. The minimum penalty for academic misconduct beyond failure for an assignment and/or for a course is disciplinary probation. Students who wish to understand matters relative to academic ethics and plagiarism should consult their advisers or instructors. Copies of the Codes are available in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, the Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Graduate School, the Service Center, and in the Office of the Dean, School of Dental Medicine."

Feel free to ask me questions you may have about academic honesty. The core principle behind the student academic code is one in which students represent original work. When you plagiarize or cheat you violate the expectation of honesty and trust between teacher and student and student and student. Students who work hard to complete assignments are being violated by those who take shortcuts to complete the same assignment, not to mention that cheaters and plagiarizers cheat themselves of the opportunity to learn. Therefore, it my expectation that not only will you use appropriate citation, but that the work for the course is your own and it is original.