

SYLLABUS

Political Science 390

Sections: 001 (Noon -1:15 pm, MW, PH 1404)
Instructor: Tim Kalinowski
Office: PH 0416
Office Hours: 11:00am-11:45am, MW
11:00am-11:30am, F
9:00-9:20am; 12:20pm-1:00pm, T/Th
or by appointment
Office Phone: 650-3865 or 650-3572
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.

BLACKBOARD:

The use of Blackboard in this course will be limited to providing documents to students and making announcements to the class. Grades will not be posted to Blackboard. Keeping up with your grades to gauge your progress in this course is your responsibility. Blackboard will not be used to turn in your research paper. Follow the instructions that will be provided regarding the research paper.

LECTURES:

The lectures in this course will follow the same general topics as are to be found in the text, but sometimes with different emphasis or viewpoint. You will be expected to participate in class discussions. You will be expected to know and understand lecture materials thoroughly.

EXAMINATION AND PAPERS:

Exam – There will be a “mid-term” exam and a final exam. The mid-term exam will make up 25% of your grade and cover all course material (including presentations) assigned prior to the date of the exam. There will be an exam during finals week that will make up 20% of your grade and cover all course material (including presentations) assigned after the mid-term exam. The exams will generally require students to write one page essays to the questions posed.

The final exam will be given **according to the registrar’s schedule** as stated in the Academic Calendar.

Papers/Presentations – There will be a research paper to be written in this class. Students will randomly 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 on the course website. As listed below in the course schedule, students will be expected to present the topics of their papers. Students simply cannot miss the day of their presentation – the material will be covered that day and there is no room in the schedule for a makeup. Details for expectations and form regarding these presentations are on the course website.

COURSE FORMAT:

The format of the course will be primarily discussion. Relevant questions are always in order. The lectures will be used to stress, emphasize, and reinforce the importance of key matters mostly also covered in the text.

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
- 20% - Final Exam
- 30% - Paper
- 10% - Presentation 1
- 10% - Participation in classroom 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. Assignments are due when scheduled. Late assignments may be accepted at the instructors discretion, but if accepted, points will be deducted.
- 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.**

No Pass Policy:

Irrespective of the grading rubric, I reserve the authority to issue a grade of zero for the research paper if the research paper is not of the quality I expect from a university student. This determination is solely mine and is somewhat subjective based upon the content of the paper and the effective communication of that content. While the grading rubric for the paper provides that points will be deducted for lack of content, poor form, poor grammar, improper citation, etc., I have received research papers that were of such poor quality that I was embarrassed that the student was allowed to pass the class. If such a situation occurs in this class, the student will be given one week after the papers are returned to adequately improve the paper. *The grade based upon the rubric for the assignment will not increase. A failure to adequately improve the paper will almost certainly result in a grade of F for the class because the research paper is 30% of the course grade.*

Research Assistance

If you need assistance with how to find or cite sources for your paper, you may request an appointment with Professor **Therese Dickman** in the library. Please email her at: tdickma@siue.edu

Be sure to let her know that you are asking for assistance related to this class. Do not wait until the last minute to decide you need help.

Schedule (Subject to Change)

Date Activity

All indicated chapters are in the Calvi&Coleman textbook

M-#. # refers to readings at the end of chapters in the Murphy textbook

RIL-pgs refers to the Reason in Law textbook

Jan 14	Intro
Jan 16	Ch 1 pgs 1-16, <i>RIL-pg xiv. RIL-pgs 160-164</i>
Jan 21	(Holiday)
Jan 23	Ch 2 pgs 21-41
Jan 28	Ch 3 pgs 44-56
Jan 30	Find & read 18 Cardozo L. Rev. 1253: Dursht - JUDICIAL PLAGIARISM: IT MAY BE FAIR USE BUT IS IT ETHICAL?; topic assigned/described; Read: Seventh Circuit Typography (see Blackboard)
Feb 4	Ch 4 pgs 81-104
Feb 6	Ch 4 pgs 104-118; <i>RIL pgs 17-21 (Prochnow)</i>
Feb 11	Ch 11 pgs 279-299
Feb 13	Ch 12 pgs 301-312
Feb 18	Ch 12 pgs 312-326
Feb 20	Ch 10 pgs 260-277
Feb 25	Ch 13 pgs 331-349
Feb 27	Ch 13 pgs 349-355
Mar 4	Ch 8 pgs 219-235
Mar 6	PAPERS DUE – no class, turn in electronically
Mar 11-15	(Spring Break)
Mar 18	Discuss expectations of presentations to follow
Mar 20	<i>M-9.7;</i> Topics 12,13,16,17
Mar 25	Topics 14,15,18,19
Mar 27	Ch 3 pgs 56-74; Topics 5,6,7
Apr 1	Topics 8,9,10,11
Apr 3	Ch 3 pgs 74-77; Topics 33,34,35,36
Apr 8	Exam
Apr 10	Ch 5 pgs 121-136; Ch 6 pgs 138-146; <i>M-2.2;</i> Topics 1,2,3,4
Apr 15***	Ch 6 146-170; <i>RIL71-93;</i> Topics 22,23,24
Apr 17	<i>M11.2, M12.2, M12.4, M12.7;</i> Topics 25,26,27,28
Apr 22	<i>Brown v Board (link on course website);</i> Topics 20,21
Apr 24	Topics 29,30,31,32
Apr 29	Ch 14 pgs 358-364 Topics 37,38,39,40
May 1	Topics 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46

Finals Week Final (covering material 4/10-5/1 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.siue.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.

You may use a laptop in class to access PowerPoints, online notes, or to type your own notes. **You may not use your laptop to surf the internet or check your email. You are expected to close your computer when we are involved in class discussion. Additionally, please turn your cell phones off and stow them in a backpack for the duration of the class. If you fail to follow these few simple rules, all student electronic devices will be banned from the classroom and the entire class may be penalized up to one-letter grade in their final course grade.**

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. 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.