

SYLLABUS

Political Science 495-001 Fall 2026

Section: 001 (11:00am-11:50am, MWF, PH3406)
Instructor: Tim Kalinowski
Office: PH 0416
Office Hours: 3:15-3:45pm, Tuesday PH0416;
10:15am-10:45am, Monday PH0416;
4:00-5:00pm, Wednesday online (probably Zoom);
or by appointment
Office Phone: 650-3865 or 650-3572
Email: tkalino@siue.edu (put POLS495 in your subject line)
Website: www.timski.com\POLS495
Texts: Feldman & Sullivan, 2025, *Constitutional Law*, 22nd Edition

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course analyzes Supreme Court decisions regarding judicial, legislative, and executive power and the relationship between the state and national governments (federalism) in a range of policy areas.

PREREQUISITES:

Passing grade in American Government (POLS112)
Sixty or more hours of college credit

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students who complete this course should be able to:

- Understand the Powers of Governments as designed by the United States Constitution as interpreted by the Judicial System.
- Critically analyze constitutional language and judicial decisions

COMMUNICATION:

You may communicate with me via the email address above, during office hours, or by appointment.

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 any papers. Follow the instructions that will be provided with your exams.

SUBJECT TO CHANGE NOTICE:

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. You are responsible for staying in touch with your instructor, reviewing the course site regularly, or communicating with other students, to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

The basic reading assignment for this course is the text. Please consult the schedule in this syllabus. Additional assigned readings will be assigned which will 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.

OTHER COURE MATERIALS:

Some material are posted in Blackboard. These may include instructional material and more recent Supreme Court cases. See above.

LECTURES:

The lectures in this course will follow the same general topics as in your readings, but sometimes with different emphasis or viewpoint. You are expected to participate in class discussions. You are expected to know and understand lecture materials thoroughly. This class involves the improvisational discussion of controversial material. If you have concerns about being "triggered" by particular topics, you should be aware that such a topic may come up in any class without warning, and you should prepare accordingly.

EXAMINATIONS:

Exam – Three exams are assigned as indicated on the syllabus. Each exam will be in an essay format where fact situations are presented and you are expected to identify and discuss how the cases covered in class may be used to explain or control the legal outcome of the scenario presented.

Attendance in class during the scheduled final exam time is mandatory. If you do not attend, you will receive a grade of F for failure to complete the course.

Final Exam Schedule: see the Registrar's final exam schedule.

You will download your exams from Blackboard, and return them via email to the address above.

COURSE FORMAT:

The format of the course will be primarily face-to-face discussion. Relevant questions are always in order. The lectures will stress, emphasize, and reinforce the importance of key matters mostly also covered in the text. Current events will also be the basis of discussion at more or less regular intervals.

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:

20% - Exam 1

30% - Exam 2

40% - Exam 3

10% - Participation in classroom discussions

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

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) Subject to other university policy, 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) This class involves the improvisational discussion of controversial material with much of it presented by students. Based upon more than 20 years of teaching this type of material, the instructor has found that many students will not discuss such controversial material when they are being recorded. This hinders the delivery of the curriculum and results in a situation where all students are limited in observing how to critically analyze the material being discussed. **During this class, no photographing, recording, or otherwise capturing the image or voice of students or faculty is allowed without the instructor's permission. Any such act will be considered a Classroom Disruption under Student Code of Conduct – 3C1 and subject to the punitive outcomes outlined under that policy.**

On December 22, 2025, the University announced “Procedures for Calls or Visits by Federal, State or Local Law Enforcement Agents *** on [SIUE] property.” This announcement categorizes “classrooms in session” as “Limited Access” and also specifies that “access is restricted or limited in certain non-public areas due to privacy concerns, operational needs or safety considerations.” For privacy reasons, this class is taught with the doors closed. If considered a private conversation, recording the conversation without the consent of all involved may be a crime in Illinois: 720 ILCS 5/14 – Eavesdropping.

5) Because this class involves the improvisational discussion of controversial material, sometimes a position is inelegantly stated. Each person in the class deserves the benefit of a good faith interpretation of what was stated.

GRADUATE CREDIT

In the first week of class, graduate students must meet with the instructor to determine the topic of the report that must be written to get a grade in the course. The report should be 15-25 pages, and must be of graduate level quality: well organized, free from errors, and citations & form should be as customary in the student's field of study. The report is not incorporated in the student's grade, but if the instructor does not accept the rigor or quality of the report, the student will get an Incomplete (I) until the instructor is satisfied. The student will only get 30 days to revise the report, at the expiration of which the Incomplete will become a failing grade (F). If the report is sufficient, then the graduate student will receive the grade earned as stated above.

This course is not required by any graduate program. Presumably, any graduate student taking this course has an interest related to the student's thesis. Most students should be writing a report covering the knowledge to be used to support the thesis. Graduate students taking the course for general interest must write a report over a topic approved by the instructor.

TECHNOLOGY CAPABILITIES

Students should be able to:

- Use a word processor, such as MS Word, to compose assignments and communicate with others in class
- Attach files to emails or course areas
- Navigate websites and course materials
- Reach out to tech support staff when issues arise and troubleshoot to resolve problems

SCHEDULE (subject to change)

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change. Your responsibility is to stay in touch with your instructor, review the course site regularly, or communicate with other students, to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change. Highlighted material in flux.

Aug 24	Introduction - read <i>How to Brief a Case</i>
Aug 26	Ch 1 - Judicial Review 1-9; 17-21
Aug 28	Ch 1 - Judicial Review - Limits 38-69
Aug 31	Ch 1 - Judicial Review - Limits 71-84 (Trump v. CASA)
Sep 2	Ch 6 - Separation of Powers 309-332
Sep 4	Ch 6 - Separation of Powers 321-339
Sep 7	Holiday
Sep 9	Ch 6 - Separation of Powers 395-414 (Missouri v. Holland)(Learning Resources)
Sep 11	Ch 6 - Separation of Powers 414-429 (Trump v. Slaughter; Trump v. Cook)
Sep 14	Ch 6 - Separation of Powers 429-439
Sep 16	Ch 6 - Separation of Powers 457-467
Sep 18	Exam 1 (8/24-9/16) - no class; take home
Sep 21	Ch 2 - Federalism 87-103
Sep 23	Ch 2 - Federalism 103-119 (Ok. v. Castro; McGirt v Oklahoma)
Sep 25	Ch 3 - Commerce Clause 125-134
Sep 28	Ch 3 - Commerce Clause 134-147
Sep 30	Ch 3 - Commerce Clause 147-159
Oct 2	Ch 3 - Commerce Clause 159-170
Oct 5	Ch 3 - Commerce Clause 170-178
Oct 7	Ch 3 - Commerce Clause 178-185
Oct 9	Ch 3 - Commerce Clause 185-195
Oct 12	Ch 5 - Dormant Commerce Clause 233-242
Oct 14	Ch 5 - Dormant Commerce Clause 242-250
Oct 16	Ch 5 - Dormant Commerce Clause 250-263
Oct 19	Ch 5 - Dormant Commerce Clause 263-271
Oct 21	Ch 5 - Dormant Commerce Clause 271-283
Oct 23	Ch 5 - Privileges & Immunities 283-291 (Tahlequah)
Oct 26	Ch 5 - Preemption 291-303 (Kansas v. Garcia; GlacierNW v. Teamsters)
Oct 28	Ch 4 - Tax & Spend 205-221
Oct 30	Ch 4 - Tax & Spend 221-232
Nov 2	Exam 2 (9/21-10/30) - no class - take home
Nov 4	no class
Nov 6	Ch 8 - Economic Liberties 483-493
Nov 9	Ch 8 - Economic Liberties 493-499
Nov 11	Ch 8 - Economic Liberties 499-508
Nov 13	Ch 8 - Economic Liberties & Takings 602-609
Nov 16	Ch 8 - Takings 609-621
Nov 18	Ch 8 - Takings 621-635
Nov 20	Ch 8 - Contracts 635-643
Nov 23-25-27	Thanksgiving Break
Nov 30	Ch 9 - Economic Regulation 643-658
Dec 2	Ch 7 - Incorporation of Rights 441-449 Jury (Ramos v. Louisiana;
Dec 4	Ch 7 - Incorporation of Rights 449-462
Dec 7	Ch 7 - Incorporation of Rights 462-473
Dec 9	Ch 7 - Incorporation of Rights 473-482
Dec 11	Exam 3 (11/6-12/9) - no class - take home
Finals Week	Attendance is Mandatory

STUDENT CONDUCT IN CLASS: (borrowed from Dr. DeGarmo with minor edits)

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. Everyone must feel comfortable stating and defending his or her own views.

You may use a laptop in class to access online coursework 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.

Please review the Student Academic Code: <https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>

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; plus cheaters and plagiarizers cheat themselves of the opportunity to learn. Therefore, I expect that not only will you use appropriate citation, but that the work for the course is your own and it is original.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

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. Students who believe they have a diagnosis, but do not have documentation, should contact ACCESS for assistance and/or appropriate referral. The ACCESS office is located in the Student Success Center, Room 1203. You can also reach the office by emailing us at myaccess@siue.edu or by calling [618-650-3726](tel:618-650-3726).

Academic Integrity

Students are reminded that the expectations and academic standards outlined in the Student Academic Code (3C2) apply to all courses, field experiences and educational experiences at the University, regardless of modality or location. The full text of the policy can be found here: <https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>.

Artificial Intelligence

In various courses, you may see different instructions prohibiting the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on graded assignments. Each person's understanding of the meaning of AI may be different even within categories such as assistive, generative, and self-learning. Depending on the person, AI may include advanced search engines, statistics and graphing packages, grammar checkers, plagiarism checkers, translation tools, code generators, natural language generators, etc. In this class, you are expected to use AI tools such as search engines, grammar checkers, and if relevant, statistics and graphing packages. However, you should construct the sentences and paragraphs in your paper. Quite simply, you must be the author of all coursework. If you are not, you should cite the source of the quotation. Every citation is a representation that you have reviewed that source, that you accurately conveyed the content of that source, and that you presented the material in the proper context. If you used statistical modeling or graphic representations, I expect that you used appropriate tools such as Excel and that you did not do the calculations or draw the graphs yourself. Some instructors may insist that you cite the versions of the tools you used. That is not necessary in this class. A failure to comply with these instructions related to AI will be treated as plagiarism under the University's plagiarism policy.

<https://www.siue.edu/policies/li6>

Potential for Changes in Course Schedule or Modality

[Odd things happen (pandemics, etc.) thus] there remains a possibility that planned classroom activities will need to be adjusted. Depending on circumstances and following state-issued recommendations, potential changes include alterations to distancing requirements, course modality (e.g., transition from face-to-face to online, hybrid, or hybrid-flex, mask wearing, in-course activities, etc). These changes would be implemented to ensure the successful completion of the course while preserving health and safety. In these cases, students may be provided with an addendum to the class syllabus that will supersede the original version. If the course schedule or modifications significantly alter expectations, a new syllabus will be issued.

Student Success Coaches

[Student success coaches](#) work across campus to serve the SIUE student population with the tools and resources to adjust to and meet the demands of the college experience. Success coaches provide direct services such as time management support and referrals to campus resources. If you find yourself in need of academic or personal support, or in a situation that is preventing you from being successful in the classroom, please utilize [Starfish](#) to connect with a coach as soon as possible. The sooner you engage, the sooner you can access the information or tools you need that may help you get back on track.