

JUDICIAL POLITICS 4023  
2022 SPRING SEMESTER  
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Room W210 Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
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 participate in courtroom observation and draft a document that relates 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 suffice

### **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 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. 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.

### **CLASSROOM POLICIES**

**The use of cell phones will not be tolerated in class. All electronic devices should be turned off and placed under the desk before and during class. The use of a laptop, Ipad, or any other electronic device of any sort is not allowed in this class.**

Respectful behavior is expected at all times. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Children are not permitted in the academic classrooms. No food will be allowed in class.

Class begins promptly at 5:00 p.m. The instructor reserves the right to have someone stand in for said instructor or convert a live class setting to a Zoom session or posted lecture should an extraordinary circumstance occur. Should class be converted to a posted lecture, the lecture notes 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.

**AGAIN, THE USE OF ANY TYPE OF RECORDING DEVICE IS NOT ALLOWED IN THIS CLASS.** The use of a recording device will serve as the basis for immediate removal from the class. Students will not be given any credit/score for work produced in association with recording devices.

### **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 from 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.

**SAFETY ISSUES/CAMPUS SAFETY:** Items that may be harmful to one's self or others should not be brought to class. LSU believes that your safety is important in the learning process. One should report suspicious activity to the Office of Public Safety/ Campus Security. In case of a classroom emergency, please exit quickly, and, once outside, continue to a safe distance away from the building. Take your possessions with you.

### **COVID-19**

LSU strongly encourages all students, faculty and staff to get vaccinated for COVID-19. Visit [www.lsu.edu/roadmap/vaccines/](http://www.lsu.edu/roadmap/vaccines/) to learn how to get vaccinated on campus. Vaccination helps keep our campus community safe, helps protect those among us who are most vulnerable to COVID-19, and is our path back to more normal operations and the full college experience that our students deserve.

**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/ courtroom observation\* [50 points]
- Classroom participation/attendance [35 total points]

TOTAL POINTS 320 TOTAL POINTS

\*\*bonus points [**discretionary**] [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 through 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, true/false, multiple choice, and essay 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. Makeup examinations may vary in format and will be administered at the discretion of the instructor.

**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 attendance, preparation, classroom discussion, and is discretionary with the instructor. Participation is an important element within your grade. Attendance will be taken during every lecture. **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 February 3, 2022. 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 the instructor by February 3, 2022. 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 2022 SPRING SEMESTER

January 20, 2022 Class introduction/orientation	
January 27, 2022 Fundamental Principles of Law	[A.C.] ch. 1
February 3, 2022 The Organization of Our Legal System [1]; <b>Written analytical assignment 1</b>	[A.C.] ch. 2
February 10, 2022 Lawyers as Advocates;	[A.C.] ch. 3
February 17, 2022 Civil Courts <b>Written analytical assignment 1 due</b> <b>Written analytical assignment 2</b>	[A.C.] chs. 4 & 5
February 24, 2022 Judges as Impartial Magistrates; <b>MIDTERM REVIEW</b>	[A.C.] ch. 6
March 3, 2022 <b>MIDTERM</b>	
March 14-18, 2022 Spring Break	

March 24, 2022 Law Enforcement and the Courts  
**Written analytical assignment 3/ courtroom observation**

March 31, 2022 Criminal Courts  
**Written analytical assignment 2 due**

[A.C.] ch. 7

April 7, 2022 Specialized Courts \*\*\*

April 14, 2022 Appellate Courts/Supreme Courts

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

April 21, 2022 TBD

April 28, 2022 TBD

May 5, 2022

**FINAL EXAM REVIEW**

**Written Analytical assignment 3/courtroom observation due**

May 12, 2022 **FINAL EXAM 8-10 PM**