SYLLABUS

I. Course Description and Objective

This course examines the role of the judiciary in the governmental policy-making process at both the federal and state levels. The course emphasizes the role of political and social factors in the selection of judges and in judicial decision-making, as well as the interrelationship between law and politics in the American political and social systems.

The objective of this course is for you to learn as much about the above topics as you are capable of learning.

This course is related to Goal 1, Objective 1a of the Political Science Department’s outcomes expectations for its majors—specifically, the component dealing with “courts” and “American constitutional structure.” The March 9 exam is an appropriate portfolio item for these purposes.

II. Required Readings


III. Lecture/Discussion Topics and Reading Assignments

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<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments:</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
<td>Sources and Types of Law in U.S. (Chapter 1)</td>
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<td>January 14</td>
<td>Federal and State Judicial Systems: Origins and Functions (Chapter 2)</td>
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<td>January 21</td>
<td>Judicial Staff and Administration</td>
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<td>January 28</td>
<td>Lawyers, Litigants, Interest Groups (Chapter 4)</td>
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<td>February 11</td>
<td>Federal and State Courts: Jurisdiction and Work Loads</td>
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<td>February 18</td>
<td>Criminal Court Process (Chapters 5 and 6)</td>
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<td>February 25</td>
<td>Civil Court Process (Chapter 7)</td>
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<td>March 3</td>
<td>Federal and State Judges (Chapter 3)</td>
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March 10

March 24 Judicial Decision-Making (Chapters 8 and 9)

March 31 " (Chapter 10)

April 7 Decision-Making on Collegial Courts

April 14 "

April 21 Implementation of Judicial Policies (Chap. 11); Summary and Overview of Judicial Policy-Making

IV. Assignments and Schedule of Exams

Date: Type: Material Covered:
February 13 First Exam Tarr, Chapters 1 and 2; all class lectures to date
March 12 Second Exam Tarr, Chapters 4, 5 and 6; all class lectures since first exam
April 7 Third Exam Tarr, Chapters 3, 7 and 8; all class lectures since second exam
May 2 Fourth Exam (11:30 AM) Tarr, Chapters 9, 10 and 11; all class lectures since third exam

V. Final Grade Evaluation

Each exam counts for 25% of our final grade.

VI. Grade Scale

90-92=A; 85+=B+; 80+=B; 75+=C+; 70+=C; 65+=D+; 60+=D; 59-50=F

VII. Office Location and Office Hours

My office is located in 537G Monroe Hall. My campus mailing address is Box 184. You may also e-mail me: dynia@loyno.edu

My office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:25 AM to 12:25 PM and from 1:30
PM to 2:00 PM. Or by appointment. Speak to me before or after class for an appointment, or phone Ext. 2561. Or e-mail me.

**VIII. Blackboard**

Sign up for it and check this course regularly.

**IX. Students with disabilities**

Students with disabilities who wish to receive accommodations in this class should contact Disability Services at 865-2990 as soon as possible so that warranted accommodations can be implemented in a timely fashion. Disability Services are located in the Academic Enrichment Center, Monroe Hall 405.

**X. Emergency Preparedness**

In the event of any disruptions due to hurricanes, it is important that I am able to get in touch with you through email other than Loyola’s system. Therefore, I would like an alternate email address for you if you have another email account. I ask you to send me an email from that account, including in the body of the message your full name and Loyola ID number. Please do this within the next week so that I can get my records in order.

The Blackboard system can be accessed online at: [http://loyno.blackboard.com](http://loyno.blackboard.com). In the event of an evacuation, you will be required to check the system for announcements and responsible for all assignments posted therein. For Bb help, please call toll free 1-866-562-7278 or visit the web support portal at [http://supportcenteronline.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=4063](http://supportcenteronline.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=4063)

**XI. Some Important Additional Points**

1. Please use blue books (8.5 in. X 7 in. 8 Leaves 16 Pages) for all quizzes and exams (see accompanying illustration). These books may be purchased at the University bookstore. Exams not written on examination books illustrated will not be accepted.

2. Attendance is required at all lectures. You are allowed 6 unexcused cuts per semester. Habitual absence may adversely affect your final grade. Specifically, if you have more than six cuts at the end of the semester and your average is borderline (i.e. 1 point away from a higher letter grade), you will receive the lower of the two possible grades. (E.g. at the end of the semester, your average is 79. That is so close to a B that I should give you the benefit of the doubt. I will--if your cuts are 6 or less. But if there are more than 6 cuts, your final grade will be C+.)

3. The roll will be called at the beginning of each class (which begins at the time scheduled). IF YOU ARE NOT PRESENT WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED, YOU WILL BE MARKED ABSENT.

4. Make-up examination policy: If you miss an exam and do not have a valid excuse (e.g. illness, death in the family), you will receive an "F" grade for that exam. If you do have a valid excuse you should contact me as soon as possible after the exam--preferably no later than a week after the exam. A make-up exam will be arranged.
5. Examinations are essay exams. I do not usually write detailed comments on exams; rather, it is my practice to mark or comment upon the most egregious errors (as well as the most sublime passages) in red notations. If you wish further and more detailed commentary on any exam, YOU ARE URGED TO SEE ME IN MY OFFICE within a week or so after the exam has been returned. At that time I will be most happy to analyze and discuss the strengths and/or weaknesses of your essay at far greater length.

6. The standards which I use to assign letter grades as well as the general problem of measuring your achievements in this course, will be discussed in general during our first class meeting, and with you personally if you wish to discuss specific exams.

7. If you are having any difficulties or problems with this course, YOU ARE URGED TO COME IN AND TALK WITH ME. Do not wait until the day before an exam or the last week of the semester.

8. Essentially this course is designed as a lecture course, but germane questions and/or class discussions are welcomed and encouraged.

9. I do not allow the tape recording of my class lectures.

10. This syllabus is for your information and guidance, and should be read thoroughly and followed closely. Unless announced otherwise in class, the exam dates will be adhered to closely. You are responsible for keeping up to date with the readings and, of course, taking exams when scheduled. You are responsible for all assignments announced in class, whether or not you attended that class.

11. I would urge you to read Loyola's Bulletin, pgs. 46-47 covering the University's policy on cheating. I agree completely with this policy and will enforce it in this and all other courses I teach.

**XI. Procedures for Quizzes and Exams**

1. All exams or quizzes must be written on blue books (see illustration), for sale in Loyola's University Bookstore.

2. Bring your blue book(s) to the class meeting immediately before the exam. If you bring more than one blue book, clip them together with a paper clip. If you forget to bring your blue books to that class, you may bring them to my office (slip them under door if I'm not there) at any time between that class and 9:00 AM the day of the exam. Blue books will not be accepted after that time. If you haven't handed in your blue books by then, you cannot take the exam and will receive an "F" for that exam. If you take the exam without having handed in a blue book in the hope that someone will have handed in an extra blue book, and even if there are blue books left over, you will still receive an "F" for that exam.

3. Write nothing in or on the exam books.
4. Write your name on a slip of paper and put the paper into the blue book. Only one slip of paper is needed, even if you hand in more than one book. Place the slip in the first blue book, and make sure the blue books are clipped together. If you are handing in more than one blue book, after you have signed your name on the slip of paper, write the total number of blue books you are submitting.

5. On the day of the exam, you will receive one blue book. Write your name on the cover in the space provided. Check to see if the book you receive has been initialed by me.

6. Make sure, before you take your place, that you have put all books, notes, bags, etc. to the front of the room. You should have at your desk only writing instruments, watch, and/or soft drink.

7. If during the exam you need another blue book, and you handed in more than one, you may take an additional blue book from the stack at the front of the room. If during the exam anyone is found with more than one blue book at their desk without having gotten it from the stack at the front of the room, or any other material, I will consider that prima facie evidence of cheating.

8. At the end of the exam, if you brought more than one blue book and used only one, take as many blue books as you are entitled to from the pile at the front of the room as you leave the exam room.

9. If any exam is written on a blue book not initialed by me, I will consider that prima facie evidence of cheating.

10. If during the course of the exam, you take and use more blue books than you actually handed in, you will receive an "F" for that exam.

11. Exams will be returned in class no later than 10 days after the exam has been given, unless extraordinary circumstances require a few additional days. If so, the class will be notified by an announcement on Blackboard. If you are not present on the day exams are returned, you may pick up your exam by stopping by Dr. Dynia office during office hours.