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## **PSCI 444 01E: Law, Politics and the Judicial Process**

### **COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2022**

#### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Chad M. King  
Class Meeting Times: TR 9:30a-10:45p  
Classroom: BA-245  
Office Location: SS-313  
Office Hours: T 9-9:30, 3:15-3:45, W 9-12, TH 8:30-9:30  
University Email Address: [chad.king@tamuc.edu](mailto:chad.king@tamuc.edu)  
Preferred Form of Communication: E-mail  
Communication Response Time: 24 hours (Up to 48 hours during weekends)

#### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Carp, Robert A., Ronald Stidham, Kenneth L. Manning, and Lisa M. Homes.  
2020. Judicial Process in America, Eleventh Edition. Los Angeles, CA: SAGE  
Publications Ltd. & CQ Press. (ISBN 9781544316697)

A list of additional readings, accessible on line or through the library, will be made available in the course site along with the assigned dates.

Software Required: Word processing software such as MS-Word

#### **Course Description**

In this course, we will examine the historical, institutional, and political nature of the American judiciary. In so doing, we will study the judicial process at both the federal

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and state levels. Furthermore, we will focus on judicial decision-making, the political impact of court decisions, and the role of lawyers and judges within the judicial process.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Describe the process of judicial selection and judicial decisions at state and federal levels.
2. Understand the major theoretical and empirical approaches to studying judicial decision making, judicial selection, and judicial behavior.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Students will need to be familiar with the University learning management system, (myLeo Online), know how to use a personal computer, navigate the World Wide Web/Internet, and use basic word processing software such as Microsoft Word and Power Point.

#### **Instructional Methods**

The following methods of instruction will be utilized for this course.

- Assigned readings from the required textbook.
- Lectures and discussions during assigned meeting times.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

All students are expected to comply with the following requirements.

- All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.
- Students are expected to regularly check the course site for announcements and updates.
- Students are expected to complete all course readings for each section of the course.
- During class, all electronic devices should be put away and remain that way until class is over. This includes laptops, cell phones, tablets, iPods/iPads, audio and video recording devices, etc. The only exception is students who have accommodation letters allowing them to use such devices.
- Students are expected to review any supplementary materials that the instructor provides, such as web links, news stories, etc.
- Students are expected to attend class regularly.

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- Students are expected to complete all assigned writing assignments, quizzes, class activities, and exams.
- Students are expected to exhibit respect toward their fellow classmates and the instructor. This includes treating everyone with courtesy and esteem in all correspondence for the course. For more information on this subject, please see the Student Guidebook.
- Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments or taking exams), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. For this course, academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic work. In particular, any student who passes passing off work as their own that was actually written by someone else, without proper citation or attribution, will be considered to have committed plagiarism. This holds true whether material comes from the textbook, another publication, an Internet source, or another student. Any act of academic dishonesty on an exam or quiz will result in a score of 0 for the exam or quiz. Any act of academic dishonesty on a writing assignment will result in a 0 for the entire semester's writing assignment grade. Instances of academic dishonesty may also be referred to the appropriate offices on campus and may result in significant administrative penalties.
- Students will comply with all myLeo Online/D2L technical requirements in terms of training, computer access, & Internet access.

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 89.5%-100%

B = 79.5%-89.4%

C = 69.5%-79.4%

D = 59.5%-69.4%

F = 59.4% or Below

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Course grades are computed using the following weighted assignments.

<b>Grade Breakdown</b>	<b>%</b>
Weekly Quizzes	8%
Exam One	22%
Exam Two	22%
Exam Three	22%
Case history	10%
Writing assignment	16%
<b>Final Grade</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **Assessments**

### **Quizzes**

Students will take in class quizzes over the assigned readings for the course. These quizzes cannot be made up, however, the instructor will automatically drop the lowest three quiz grades.

### **Exams**

Students will take three exams this semester. All exams will include material from the textbook, additional readings, and lecture. Students who arrive 20 minutes after an exam has started may be denied the opportunity to take the exam and/or required to take the exam at an alternative time with a significant grade penalty.

### **Case history assignment**

Students will be required to write a short case history and make an oral presentation their case to the class. Students will choose a pending US Supreme Court case to write about and present. The instructor will provide a handout the second week of the semester that will detail the requirements and expectations for this assignment.

### **Research paper assignment**

Students will write a paper in which they discuss and analyze the confirmation hearing of a recent Supreme Court Justice. This paper will review the nomination process, confirmation process, the important political issues during those two stages, and the

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justices' behavior since confirmation. The instructor will provide a formal assignment through myLeo online by the second week of the semester.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is not formally graded in this class, however, excessive absenteeism will not be tolerated. Students who accumulate more than 3 unexcused absences will be administratively dropped from the class. Any request for an excused absence must be submitted directly to the instructor in writing (no e-mail) with supporting documentation, no more than 2 class days after the absence.

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

### **LMS**

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

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## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

Students should rely upon e-mail, office hours, and course announcements as the primary means of communication with the instructor. I will use all of these to announce any changes to the course syllabus or other relevant information. Also, please note that the system will only send e-mail to your official University Email address, so you will need to check that account regularly. I will always try to e-mail you as soon as I can. From M-F you can expect a reply, at the latest, within 24 hours. On the weekends, I may take 48 hours to respond.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

- Make-up exams: If a student misses an exam, that student will receive a grade of 0 for the exam. Make-up exams will only be granted at the discretion of the instructor. Any request for a make-up exam must be made in writing and include documentation explaining why the absence was legitimate. Such a request must be received within 3 calendar days of the missed exam date, unless the student is physically unable to submit such a request. Legitimate reasons may include illness severe enough to require professional treatment, death of an immediate family member, participation in University activities, and legal obligations. Students who miss any exam because they forgot about the exam dates/times will not receive a make-up exam. Please note, these reasons do not guarantee that a make-up exam will be given. Make-up exams will be exclusively essay format.
- Incompletes will be granted completely at the discretion of the instructor and only be granted in the case of serious medical illness or other serious, unavoidable circumstances and only if the student has completed at least 70% of the course work. Incompletes must be finished within two weeks of the end of the semester.
- Students must complete the "Personal Responsibility Statement" quiz available on the course site. Students who fail to do so by the time the first exam is graded will be administratively dropped from the course.

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## **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

#### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

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Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

Below are readings assignments and exam schedule. In addition to the readings from the textbook, students should also keep abreast of the news and current events.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Assigned readings</b>
1/18	Chapter 1
1/20	United States Constitution
1/25	Federalist Papers 10, 51, 78-83
	<a href="http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/fed.asp">http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/fed.asp</a>
1/27	JP Chapters 2
2/1	JP Chapters 2
2/3	JP Chapter 3
2/8	JP Chapter 4
2/10	JP Chapter 4
2/15	JP Chapter 5
2/17	JP Chapter 5
2/22	JP Chapter 6
2/24	JP Chapter 6
3/1	JP Chapter 7
3/3	<b>Exam 1</b>

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3/8	JP Chapter 8
3/10	JP Chapter 9
3/22	JP Chapter 9
3/24	JP Chapter 10
3/29	JP Chapter 10
3/31	JP Chapter 11
4/5	JP Chapter 11
4/7	<b>Exam 2</b>
4/12	JP Chapter 12
4/14	JP Chapter 12
4/19	JP Chapter 13
4/21	JP Chapter 13
4/26	JP Chapter 14
4/28	JP Chapter 15
5/3	JP Chapter 15

### **Exam Schedule**

Exam 1: 3/3/22, Chapters 1-7.

Exam 2: 4/7/22, Covers Chapters 8-11.

Exam 3: 5/12/22 @ 8:30 AM, Covers Chapters 12-15

### **Quiz Schedule**

Quizzes will be unannounced and taken in class. Some weeks there may be two quizzes. Missed quizzes cannot be made up, however, the instructor will drop the lowest four for the semester.

### **Case history assignment**

Topics are due 1/21/22. Papers are due two days after the student makes their class presentation. Students will be assigned a presentation date once the semester start.

### **Justice paper**

Your choice of justices are due by 9 PM on 1/29/22. Final papers are due by 9 PM on 4/25/22 and must be uploaded to D2L.

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