Political Science 204  
Judicial Politics  
Spring 2004  
MW 9:30-10:45  
LH 110  

Instructor: Stephen Meinhold, Ph.D.  
Office: LH 261  
Office Hours: MW 10-11 a.m., and by appointment  
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Course Description:  

This course presents a broad overview of courts as political institutions and judges as political actors. The dynamics of the legal system are examined within the context of the larger political system rather than studying legal concepts in isolation from society. After completing the course you will have a firm understanding of the judicial process and the complex ways in which courts are involved in the United States political process.  

Textbook:  


Assignments:  

Attend Class  
Complete three exams  
Complete a Courtroom Observation Paper  
Write a Comparative Courts Paper  

Grading:  

Exam 1 – 60 points  
Exam 2 – 60 points  
Final Exam – 60 points  
Courtroom Observation – 20 points  
Comparative Paper – 20 points  

Total Points Possible – 220  

Grade Scale - A, 220-198; B, 197-176; C, 175-154; D, 153-132; F, 131-  

Guidelines for the courtroom observation and comparative paper will be distributed separately.
### Course Schedule:

**January**
- 12-14: Course Introduction, Neubauer and Meinhold – Chapter 1
- 19-21: Neubauer and Meinhold – Chapter 2
- **19**: No Class – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- 26-28: Neubauer and Meinhold – Chapter 3

**February**
- 2-4: Neubauer and Meinhold – Chapter 4
- **4**: Exam #1
- 9-11: Neubauer and Meinhold – Chapter 5 + Film
- 16-18: Neubauer and Meinhold – Chapter 6
- 23-25: Neubauer and Meinhold – Chapter 7 + Film

**March**
- 2-4: Neubauer and Meinhold – Chapters 8 and 9
- **8-10**: No Class – Spring Break
- 15-17: Neubauer and Meinhold – Chapters 10 and 11
- 22-24: Neubauer and Meinhold – Chapter 12
- **24**: Exam #2
- 29-31: Neubauer and Meinhold – Chapter 13

**April**
- 5-7: Neubauer and Meinhold – Chapter 14
- 12-14: Neubauer and Meinhold – Chapter 15
- 19-21: Neubauer and Meinhold – Chapter 15
- **26**: Last Day of Class

**29**: Final Exam – 8:00 – 11:00