

## Syllabus for PSC 215-LH, Judicial Politics, GWSPM, Legislative Affairs

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Semester  
Spring 2004

Course Credit: 3

Wednesday nights, 6-8 pm in the Hall of States, Jan 14-April 21, with March 17 off for Spring Break

### Course Reading List

1. Required Books  
Courts Judges and Politics  
Murphy, Pritchett & Epstein  
5<sup>th</sup> Edition  
ISBN #0-07-044167-7

### 2. Optional Books

Proceedings of the United States Senate in the Impeachment Trial of President William Jefferson Clinton  
Senate Document 106-4

### Description

How do courts operate, and why do they act the way they do? What are the tools and tasks of courts? How do the forms of court organizations work? Why do some court decisions succeed and others fail? The course will explore the connection between the

courts and the political process, as well as nominations and how the process shapes legislative-judicial relations, even long after confirmation proceedings.

One paper will be required during the course: a 15- 18 page paper analyzing theories and concepts of judicial politics and applying same to some real court experience derived from literature, history, biography, or the material in the readings.

Criteria for judging the paper will be: 1) understanding of the course material; 2) introduction of illustrative material; 3) the introduction of new material designed to show how the student has augmented the assigned readings and classroom discussion.

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Classroom participation 30%

Paper 70%

**Class 1 January 14**

**Chap. 1, pp. 1-36**

**Class 2 January 21**

**Chap 2 pp.**

**36-79**

**Class 3 January 28**

**Chap. 3, pp. 79-137**

**Class 4 February 4**

**Chap. 4, pp. 137-196**

**Class 5 February 11**

**Chap. 5, pp. 196-239**

**Class 6 February 18**

**Chap. 6, pp. 239-280**

**Class 7 February 25**

**Chap. pp.280-310**

**Class 8 March 3**

**Chap. 8, pp. 310-363**

**Class 9 March 10**

**Chap. 9, pp. 363-419**

**Spring Break – No Class March 17**

**Class 10 March 24**

**Chap. 10, pp. 419-477**

**Class 11 March 31**

**Chap. 11, pp. 477-526**

**Class 12 April 7**

**Chap. 12, pp. 526-603**

**Class 13 April 14**

**Chap. 13, pp. 603-678**

**Class 14 April 21**

**Chap. 14, pp. 678-end**

There will be an overview of the course

Paper is due

