

Professor Young
Off.: 616 MPA
Phone: 994-6494
E-mail: YoungG@gwu.edu
Off. hrs: Wed., 8-9:30 or by appt.

Political Science 113 (Sec. 10): Judicial Politics

Tues. & Thurs., 5-6:15 2020 K St., Room 20
Spring 2005, George Washington University

Textbooks

Baum, *American Courts: Process and Policy*
Epstein, *Contemplating Courts*
Maltese, *The Selling of Supreme Court Nominees*
Stern, *The Buffalo Creek Disaster*

Exams

The course will have two in-class exams. Each test will be composed of questions on materials covered in the classroom and the texts. The format is a combination of short answer and essay. Exam dates are listed below.

Field Work/Research Paper

Your paper project this semester will be a combination field work report and research paper. More details are forthcoming, but the project will involve attending an oral argument before the Supreme Court, or a judicial confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary committee. You should make sure that your schedule can accommodate attending one of these sessions before staying enrolled in this class.

Grading

Your course grade will be based on the paper and two exams as follows:

First Exam: 35%
Second Exam: 35%
Paper: 30% .

Academic Integrity

All examinations, papers, and other graded work products and assignments are to be completed in conformance with the George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity.

Course Schedule

Overview of Syllabus	Jan. 18
Inaugural Holiday	Jan. 20
History and Organization of the Court System Read: Baum, chs. 1, 2, 3; Epstein, ch. 1	Jan. 25, 27
Selecting Judges Read: Baum, ch. 4; Maltese, all	Feb. 1, 3, 8
Are Judges Representative(s)? Read: Baum, ch. 5	Feb. 10
Trial Courts Read: Baum, chs. 6, 7; Epstein, chs. 6, 7, 8; Stern, all	Feb. 15, 17, 22, 24; Mar. 1, 3
First Exam	Mar. 8
Appellate Courts & Agenda Setting Read: Baum, ch. 8; Epstein, ch. 9, 11	Mar. 10
Spring Break	Mar. 16, 18
Decision Making Models Read: Epstein, chs. 10, 13	Mar. 22, 24, 29, 31; Apr. 5
No Class	Apr. 7
Decision Making Models (cont)	Apr. 12
The Environment	Apr. 14, 19
The S.C. & the Public post- <i>Bush v. Gore</i> Read: Epstein, ch. 15	Apr. 21
Paper due	Apr. 21
The Relevance of the Courts as Policymakers Read: Baum, ch. 9; Epstein, chs. 16, 17	Apr. 26, 28
Final	TBA