Political Science 113 (Sec. 11): Judicial Politics
Tues. & Thurs., 3:55-5:10, 103 Funger Hall
Spring 2006, George Washington University

Textbooks
Baum, American Courts: Process and Policy, 5th ed.
Slotnick, Judicial Politics, 3rd ed.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overview of Syllabus</td>
<td>Jan. 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and Organization of the Court System</td>
<td>Jan. 19, 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read: Baum, chs. 1, 2, 3; Slotnick [Slotnick, pp. 2-17; Fein &amp; Neuborne, pp. 661-667]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selecting Judges</td>
<td>Jan. 26, 31, Feb. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read: Baum, ch. 4; Slotnick [Berkson, pp. 50-52; Thomas et al, pp. 53-64; Aspin, pp. 65-68; Slotnick, pp. 69-72; Denning, pp. 562-570; Melone, pp. 529-543]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are Judges Representative(s)?</td>
<td>Feb. 7, 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read: Baum, ch. 5; Slotnick [Goldman, pp. 266-269; Hurwitz &amp; Lanier, pp. 270-279]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trial Courts</td>
<td>Feb. 14, 21, 23, 28; Mar. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read: Stern, all; Baum, chs. 6, 7; Slotnick [Adams, pp. 146-153; Kritzer, pp. 157-165; Sperlich, pp. 211-226; Diamond, pp. 244-251; Clark et al, pp. 319-323; Morris, pp. 324-327]</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Class</td>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
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**First Exam**

Mar. 7

**Appellate Courts & Agenda Setting**

Mar. 9

Read: Baum, ch. 8; Slotnick [Provine, pp. 338-349; Hellman, pp. 361-378; Crump, pp. 131-137]

**Spring Break**

Mar. 14, 16

**Decision Making Models**

Mar. 21, 23, 28, 30; Apr. 4, 6

Read: Slotnick [Wasby, pp. 405-415; Campbell, pp. 425-430; Segal & Howard, pp. 431-441; Miller, pp. 516-519]

**The Environment**

Apr. 11, 13, 18

Read: Slotnick [Wasby, pp. 167-178; Behuniak, pp. 179-192; Spill & Oxley, pp. 462-470; Slotnick & Segal, pp. 471-479; Scheb & Lyons, pp. 496-499; Kritzer, pp. 500-506]

**Paper due**

Apr. 18

**The Relevance of the Courts as Policymakers**

Apr. 20, 25, 27

Read: Baum, ch. 9

**Makeup Day (if necessary)**

May 2

**Final**

TBA