

Professor Young
Office.: 616 MPA
Phone: 994-6494

E-mail: YoungG@gwu.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 8-9:30 or by appt.

GTA: Ryan Schoen

Office: 609 21st St NW, Rm 202

Phone: 994-2504

Email: rschoen@gwu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30 or by appt.

Political Science 113 (Sec. 11): Judicial Politics

Tues. & Thurs., 3:55-5:10, 103 Fungler 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

Overview of Syllabus	Jan. 17
History and Organization of the Court System Read: Baum, chs. 1, 2, 3; Slotnick [Slotnick, pp. 2-17; Fein & Neuborne, pp. 661-667]	Jan. 19, 24
Selecting Judges 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]	Jan. 26, 31, Feb. 2
Are Judges Representative(s)? Read: Baum, ch. 5; Slotnick [Goldman, pp. 266-269; Hurwitz & Lanier, pp. 270-279]	Feb. 7, 9
Trial Courts 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]	Feb. 14, 21, 23, 28; Mar. 2
No Class	Feb. 16
First Exam	Mar. 7
Appellate Courts & Agenda Setting Read: Baum, ch. 8; Slotnick [Provine, pp. 338-349; Hellman, pp. 361-378; Crump, pp. 131-137]	Mar. 9
Spring Break	Mar. 14, 16
Decision Making Models Read: Slotnick [Wasby, pp. 405-415; Campbell, pp. 425-430; Segal & Howard, pp. 431-441; Miller, pp. 516-519]	Mar. 21, 23, 28, 30; Apr. 4, 6
The Environment 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]	Apr. 11, 13, 18
Paper due	Apr. 18
The Relevance of the Courts as Policymakers Read: Baum, ch. 9	Apr. 20, 25, 27
Makeup Day (if necessary)	May 2
Final	TBA