Political Science 113 (Sec. 10): Judicial Politics
Mon., Wed., 9:30-10:45, 209 Funger Hall
Fall 2002, George Washington University

Textbooks
Baum, American Courts: Process and Policy
Epstein, Contemplating Courts
Maltese, The Selling of Supreme Court Nominees
Gillman, The Votes That Counted: How the Court Decided the 2000 Presidential Election

Grading
You will have the opportunity to earn 300 points in this course, apportioned as follows:

Midterm exam 100 pts.
Paper 100 pts.
Final exam 100 pts.

Your final grade will be determined by the percentage of total points you earn in the semester.

Tests
We will have a midterm exam and a final. 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. The final is not comprehensive. The midterm will be held Oct. 16 while the final will be held during the finals period.

Paper
Your paper will revolve around the Gillman book. I will provide you with extensive details about the project around the second week of the semester. The Gillman book is long and involved, so you should begin reading it immediately. The paper is due at the beginning of class on Dec. 2.

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

Below is an outline of the semester. This is a general outline in the sense that I may on occasion fall behind or get ahead. The midterm date will be altered only with ample notice.

Overview of Syllabus Sep. 4

History and Organization of the Court System Sep. 9, 11, 16
Read: Baum, chs. 1, 2, 3; Epstein, ch. 1

Selecting Judges Sep. 18, 23, 25
Read: Baum, ch. 4; Maltese, all

Are Judges Representative(s)? Sep. 30
Read: Baum, ch. 5

Trial Courts Oct. 2, 7, 9
Read: Baum, chs. 6, 7; Epstein, chs. 6, 7, 8

Appellate Courts, the Basics Oct. 14
Read: Baum, ch. 8; Epstein, ch. 9

Midterm Exam Oct. 16

Deciding to Decide on the Appellate Courts Oct. 21
Read: Epstein, ch. 11

Decision Making in the Appellate Courts Oct. 23, 28, 30; Nov. 4, 6
Read: Epstein, chs. 10, 13. Note: You should have completed reading the Gillman book by the time we reach this series of lectures.

The Environment Nov. 11, 13, 18
Read: Epstein, chs. 3, 4, 5

The Relevance of the Courts as Policymakers Nov. 20, 25, 27
Read: Baum, ch. 9; Epstein, chs. 16, 17

Gillman Paper due at beginning of class Dec. 2

Gillman Discussion Dec. 2, 4
Read: This is your chance to respond/debate Gillman

The S.C. & the Public post-*Bush v. Gore* Dec. 9
Read: Epstein, ch. 15

Final Exam T.B.A.