Political Science 113 (Sec. 10): Judicial Politics
Monday-Thursday, 10:00-11:30, 220 Funger Hall
Summer 2003, George Washington University

Textbooks
Baum, *American Courts: Process and Policy*
Lazarus, *Closed Chambers*
Maltese, *The Selling of Supreme Court Nominees*
Stern, *The Buffalo Creek Disaster*

Exams
The course will have two in-class exams, each worth 100 points. 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.

Paper
You will write a paper based on the Lazarus book and decision-making models we discuss in lecture. I will go over the paper assignment in detail during the first week of class. The Lazarus book is interesting, but it is long and sometimes challenging. You should start reading it early in the semester.

Discussion/Participation
We will engage in class discussions as much as possible. We will set aside time to discuss the Lazarus, Maltese, and Stern readings. In addition, this summer promises a lot of interesting judicial activity. The Supreme Court will be handing down several important decisions and it is possible that one of the Supreme Court justices will retire. You should be prepared to engage in course discussion by attending class, and by keeping up with reading and current affairs. Participation is worth 50 points and will depend on your frequent substantive contribution to class discussions.

Grading
Your grade will be based on the percentage of points you receive out of a possible 350.

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

Week One (May 21 - May 22)
Introduction
History and Organization of the Court System
Reading: Baum, chs. 1, 2, 3

Week Two (May 26 - May 29)
No Class May 26 (Memorial Day)
Judicial Selection & Representation
Read: Baum, chs. 4, 5; Maltese, all
Be prepared to discuss Maltese this week.

Week Three (June 2 – 5)
Trial Courts
Read: Baum, chs. 6, 7; Stern, all
Be prepared to discuss Stern this week.

First Exam: Thursday, June 5

Week Four (June 9 – 12)
Appellate Courts/Agenda Setting
Legal, Attitudinal, and Collegial Models
Read: Lazarus
Be prepared to start discussing Lazarus this week. We’ll break it down by groups of chapters.
**Week Five (June 16 - 19)**

No class Monday, June 16
Tuesday, June 17 will be set aside for discussing your papers.

SOP and Hierarchical Models
Read: continue Lazarus

**Week Six (June 23 - 26)**

Environment/Court as policymaker
Read: Baum, ch. 9; finish Lazarus if necessary

**Week Seven (June 30 - July 2)**

Exam on June 30.

No class on July 1. I will be available for last minute paper questions.

**Term papers due during class period July 2.**