

JUDICIAL POLITICS 4023
2020 FALL SEMESTER
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
CLASS HOURS 5-7-50 P.M.

INSTRUCTOR: ELI J. ABAD
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OFFICE HOURS: ONE (1) HOUR FOLLOWING EACH SCHEDULED CLASS OR BY
APPOINTMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the litigation process within the American legal system. Emphasis will be placed on examinations of the federal system, the state system, and the fundamental principles of law associated within those systems. Students will study the organization of the courts and learn the roles of individuals that work within the systems. Specific areas of study will include [but are not limited to] jurisdiction and venue, the persons that are active within the system, civil litigation, the role of law enforcement within the criminal setting, specialized courts, appellate litigation, the use of technology in the courtroom, the use of social media within the systems, Louisiana politics, and other issues related to the legal system. Additionally, students will participate in courtroom observation and draft a document that relates to concepts in this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will learn how judges, attorneys, witnesses, and litigation parties interact within our legal system and the significance of their interactions. Also, students will gain an understanding about the structures, organizations, and processes of court systems. Upon the completion of this course, the student will be able to describe the state and federal court system, understand issues related to litigation, identify the role of the persons in the litigation process, and have personal contact with individuals associated with the legal system either in a classroom setting and/or courtroom setting.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend all virtual classes. Advanced arrangements should be made with the instructor should there be a need to miss class. A student missing class is responsible for all materials, notes, etc. disseminated in the missed class. Written documentation must be provided immediately upon return to support an excused absence. An attendance record will be kept. Students are required to attend class, be prepared for classroom discussions, and participate in class. Students are responsible to know the LSU attendance policy.

HOW TO CONTACT ME

The best way to contact me is by email. I will make every effort to answer your questions in a timely manner (usually within 24 hours during the normal workweek). I will also hold office hours immediately after our scheduled class lecture, when you may ask questions after lecture via Zoom or telephone me (504-256-5413). If you would like to set up an alternative time to meet with me, email me and we can schedule a time that is mutually convenient.

CLASS POLICIES: Respectful behavior is expected at all times. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Class begins promptly at 5:00 p.m. You will be expected to be logged into Zoom by 5:00 p.m. The instructor reserves the right to have someone stand in for said instructor should extraordinary circumstances exist preventing the instructor's availability for a specific class.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM: Cheating and Plagiarism [in any form] will not be tolerated. In general, 'cheating' should be construed as depriving [in any form] someone [or obtaining from someone/something] of something of value by deceit, fraud, dishonesty, etc..... In general, 'plagiarism' should be construed as taking [in any form] the ideas of another and passing the ideas off as one's own [without crediting the source]. Penalties for cheating and plagiarism will be in conformity with the LSU standards. Further, students will not be given any credit/ score for individual projects that are the products of cheating and/or plagiarism.

POLICY ON DEADLINES:

In an effort to provide a level playing field, I take deadlines very seriously and hold everyone to an identical standard. If you encounter a problem that prevents you from meeting a deadline, please contact me. I understand that problems can arise and I will accommodate difficulties that you may encounter. But please be prepared to provide documentation.

LIBRARY/LEARNING RESOURCES: Students are encouraged to utilize the library/ learning resources center in enhancing skills, using resources, and developing reading enjoyment.

GRADING

The final grade in this course is based upon the total score of the following:

- Mid-term examination [100 total points]
- Final examination [**cumulative**] [100 total points]
- Written analytical project 1 and 2 [35 total points]
- Written analytical paper 3 [50 total points]

- Classroom participation/ attendance [35 total points]

TOTAL POINTS 320 TOTAL POINTS [no curve]

**bonus points [discretionary] [5-15 per assignment; added to total semester points]

There will be **TWO EXAMINATIONS** during the semester. The exams will consist of short answer, true/false, multiple choice, and essay questions. The exams will cover materials from lectures, reading, handouts, and guest speakers. Various handouts may be provided throughout the semester. All materials are intended to complement [not duplicate] each other. Thus, some of what you read may not be discussed in class and some of the lecture material may go beyond what you read. Each student is responsible for **ALL** material. *** PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FINAL IS CUMULATIVE*** The format of the exam may be modified at the discretion of the instructor. Makeup examinations may be allowed based solely upon the discretion of the instructor and only for those absences necessitated by a legitimate, documented medical emergency. Makeup examinations may vary in format and will be administered at the discretion of the instructor.

WRITTEN ANALYTICAL ASSIGNMENTS will be due prior to the taking of examinations. The due dates for uploading these reports through the Moodle site are listed on the syllabus. Remember that these are individual assignments that you must complete without the assistance of others. The due dates for the assignments vary throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to keep track of the deadlines and complete the assignments on time. **There are no grace periods for these assignments and submitting them after the deadline will result in a substantial reduction of points.** I recognize, however, there are legitimate reasons for missing a deadline. If you experience a significant problem that prevents you from submitting a report, it is your responsibility to let me know about it in a timely manner and to provide appropriate documentation (e.g., doctor's note).

PARTICIPATION is based on regular virtual attendance via Zoom, preparation, the student's ZOOM discussion, and is discretionary with the instructor. Classroom participation is an important element within your grade. Students are reminded that just logging in through Zoom is not sufficient for earning full credit for class participation. ***THE INSTRUCTOR SPECIFICALLY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE AN APPROPRIATE GRADE BASED [IN PART] ON THE QUALITY OF THE SUBSTANTIVE MATERIAL SUBMITTED BY THE STUDENT FOR COURSE ASSIGNMENTS.***

BONUS POINTS may be awarded during the semester based upon bonus projects. The decision to administer [or not] bonus projects is a discretionary choice made by the instructor. In conjunction with LSU policy, a 'plus/minus' grading scale will be utilized in this class relative to course grades. Any questions regarding specific school policy in this matter should be addressed through the LSU Registrar's Office.

FINAL GRADES: In conjunction with LSU policy, a ‘plus/minus’ grading scale will be utilized in this class relative to course grades. Any questions regarding specific school policy in this matter should be addressed through the LSU Registrar’s Office.

GRADING SCALE [TOTAL POINTS]

- A+ = 320-310
- A = 309-299
- A- = 298-288
- *****
- B+ = 287-277
- B = 276-266
- B- = 265-255
- *****
- C+ = 254-244
- C = 243-233
- C- = 232-222
- *****
- D+ = 221-211
- D = 210-200
- D- = 199-190
- *****
- F = 189 or below

DISABILITY STATEMENT: Any student eligible for and needing reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments because of a disability should speak with the instructor in person by January 23, 2020. Further, LSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. The syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. If you have a hidden or visible disability that may require classroom or test accommodations, please see the instructor by January 23, 2020. If you have not already done so, register with the appropriate campus department related to disability services. **SPECIAL NOTES:** Continued enrollment in this course indicates acceptance of course policy. This syllabus is subject to change. The attached class schedule is tentative and may be subject to change. Changes will be announced in class. You are required to keep this syllabus and refer to it during the semester. You are responsible for all material/data/information presented in this class and all information contained within the class syllabus.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE 2020 FALL SEMESTER

August 27, 2020 Class introduction/orientation

September 3, 2020 Fundamental Principles of Law

[A.C.] ch. 1

September 10, 2020 The Organization of Our Legal System [1];	[A.C.] ch. 2
September 17, 2020 Lawyers as Advocates; Written analytical assignment 1	[A.C.] ch. 3
September 24, 2020 Judges as Impartial Magistrates.	[A.C.] ch. 6
October 1, 2020 Law enforcement and the courts Midterm Review Written analytical assignment 1 due	
October 8, 2020 Fall Holiday	
October 15, 2020 MIDTERM ***	
October 22, 2020 Civil Courts Written analytical assignment 2	[A.C.] chs. 4 & 5
October 29, 2020 Criminal Courts	[A.C.] ch. 7
November 5, 2020 Specialized Courts *** Written analytical paper 3	
November 12, 2020 Appellate Courts/Supreme Courts	[A.C.] chs. 8 & 9 [S.C.]chs. 4, 5, 6
November 19, 2020 La. Politics; Social Media ***	
November 26, 2020 Thanksgiving Holiday	
December 3, 2020 Final Exam Review Written analytical assignment 2 due Written analytical paper 3 due	
Final Exam May be taken anytime from 8:00 a.m. Monday, December 7 through 1:00 p.m. Saturday, December 12.	