

POL2260 - ONLINE
AMERICAN JUDICIAL PROCESS
WINTER SESSION SYLLABUS 2019

Professor Michael Luis Principe
Political Science Department
Office: Raubinger Hall 408
principem@wpunj.edu

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to examine the role of the courts in the American political system. In addition to comparing various judicial systems (including comparative constitutional systems, U.S. state and federal court systems, and aspects of the U.S. criminal justice system), the course will also briefly review Jurisprudence (judicial activism and restraint, the interpretive and noninterpretive theories of constitutional analysis) and Major Legal Concepts (jurisdiction, standing, mootness, etc.), before examining the history of Judicial Power & Judicial Decision-Making in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Requirements:

Students are responsible for knowing how to access Blackboard and properly complete and/or participate in the course assignments, Chat Sessions, *Discussion Boards*, and Exams. Any computer questions should be directed to the *WPU Computer Helpdesk*. Students are required to read the assigned chapters each week and review any *Outlines* or *Discussion Board* postings I make. Assessment will include two (2) ONLINE Examinations. Exams will feature 2 essay questions. The exams are mandatory, therefore it is the Student's responsibility to arrange their schedule to take the exams if there is any conflict with the dates/times. The exams will be graded on their Content, Creativity, Critical Thinking, Grammar, and Organization. The exams are worth 100 points each. ***For maximum points, students MUST incorporate the assigned readings and Outlines into their analysis (with specific page numbers) as support for their arguments!***

Required Texts:

Banks & O'Brien, *The Judicial Process: Law, Courts, and Judicial Politics*, (Sage/CQ Press, 2016)
Principe, *Readings on the American Judicial System*, ebook (Kendall/Hunt, 2016)

Course Objectives:

1. To provide a critical understanding of the historical role of the judiciary in shaping

