

Western Kentucky University  
Department of Political Science  
PS 220-700 Judicial Process  
3 credit hours  
Course Syllabus Spring 2022  
ONLINE

**Instructor:** Kelsey Truxal, esquire  
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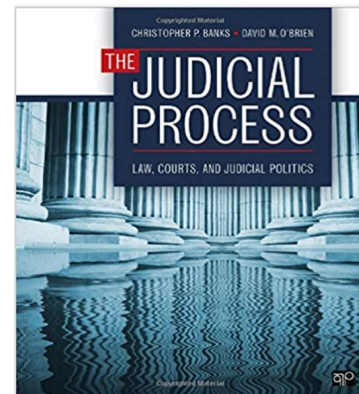
**A. COURSE NECESSITIES**

1. Textbook:

The Judicial Process: Law, Courts and Judicial Politics (1<sup>st</sup> edition) published by CQ Press ISBN: 978-1483317014

(Used on Amazon is roughly \$25.00)

*Hint: It looks like this →*



2. AN OPEN MIND: We will be discussing politics.  
It is crucial that you remain respectful and open to the comments of your peers.

**B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

**This course will comply with the Colonnade Connections category Understanding Individual and Social Responsibility. Systems** (3 hours). Students will examine systems, whether natural or human, by breaking them down into their component parts or processes and seeing how these parts interact. Courses will consider the evolution and dynamics of a particular system or systems and the application of system-level thinking. Students who complete this course will:

1. Analyze how systems evolve.
2. Compare the study of individual components to the analysis of entire systems.
3. Evaluate how system-level thinking informs decision-making, public policy, and/or the sustainability of the system itself.

### **C. ATTENDANCE**

Participation is critical to your success in this course. If you are aware of a period of absence ahead of time, have your assignments turned in prior to the absence. The instructor reserves the right to drop students from the course who, without previous arrangements with the instructor or department, fail to log on to Blackboard within one week of the course start date without previous arrangements within the instruction or department. The key here is **communication**.

The instructor has the ability to view blackboard activity including whether or not you even click on assignment links. If you are not utilizing blackboard on a regular basis, **I will know.**

### **D. CLASS COMMUNICATIONS**

A copy of this Syllabus will be posted on TopNet and Blackboard prior to the beginning of the spring semester. It is the student's responsibility to refer to the Syllabus regularly for assignment and examination schedules. The Syllabus is an estimate of progress through material, and the Instructor retains the right to modify the Syllabus as necessary throughout the semester.

All other course communication will occur during face to face classes or via Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to monitor Blackboard **and** their WKU email accounts regularly for assignments, deadlines, and scheduling.

### **E. HONOR CODE**

Academic honesty is expected. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and at a minimum will affect your course grade. Acts of academic dishonesty include cheating and plagiarism. I grade on a curve of improvement on your work. It will not help you at all to copy from another student, or copy/paste answers from the internet.

## **F. STUDENT INFORMATION**

The Instructor reserves the right to remove any student from the classroom for disruptive or disrespectful behavior.

### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS:**

In order for the Instructor to make appropriate classroom accommodations for Students with learning or other disabilities, it is requested that the Student contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center regarding his/her disability **prior to the beginning of this semester** at: <https://www.wku.edu/sarc/>.

### **IMPORTANT STUDENT INFORMATION:**

All WKU students may access information relating to the Americans with Disabilities Act classroom/course accommodation requirements, Title IX sexual assault reporting requirements, student complaints and grievances, active shooter preparedness, emergency preparedness, student legal services, counseling services and police services at:

<https://www.wku.edu/syllabusinfo/index.php>

## **G. LATE WORK**

ALL late work not approved by the instructor PRIOR to the due date will be subject to an automatic one letter grade deduction per day that it is late.

### **G. Assignments**

<b>Chapter Quizzes:</b>	<b>60 points (4 points each) (15 total)</b>
<b>Discussion Boards:</b>	<b>60 points (6 point each) (10 total)</b>
<b>Essays</b>	<b>60 points (15 points each) (4 total)</b>
<b>Exams:</b>	<b>120 points (40 points each)(3 total)</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>300 points</b>

**Chapter Quizzes:** There will be fifteen (15) chapter quizzes posted on blackboard throughout the semester. Extensions will not be granted after the due date of the quiz.

**Class Participation:** There will be discussion boards. I dislike them as much as you do, but alas, they will be required. More to come.

**Essays:** There will be four (4) essays worth fifteen (15) points each, assigned during the semester. Students will have one week to complete each essay.

**Midterm Exam/Final Exam:** Students will be required to complete two (2) exams during the semester. The midterm will be worth 40 points and the final exam will be worth sixty (60) points. **OR--- PLEASE BE ADVISED that this assignment may change to a project/presentation. TBD.**

## COURSE CALENDAR

*\*\*All dates are tentative and subject to change\*\**

Week	Class Dates	Topic	Reading	Assignments
1	1/18-1/21	Introduction/ No Reading	<b>(pages on all chapters TBD)</b>	DB 1
2	1/24-1/28	Foundations of Legal Systems	Chapter 1	Quiz 1 Quiz 2
		Philosophies of the Law	Chapter 2	DB 2
3	1/31-2/4	Limits of Judicial Power	Chapter 6	Quiz 3 Quiz 4
		Structure of State Judicial Systems	Chapter 3	DB 3
4	2/7-2/11	CLASS CANCELED- Mock Trial Regionals	Chapter 4	Essay 1 DB 4
		Structure of Lower Federal Judiciary	Chapter 3	
5	2/14-2/18	Staffing Lower Federal Judiciary	Chapter 4	Quiz 5 Quiz 6
		Structure of Supreme Court	Chapter 3 and Chapter 9	DB 5
6	2/21-2/25	Staffing Supreme Court	Chapter 4	<b>Exam 1</b>
		<b>EXAM 1 OPENS</b>	<b>EXAM 1 OPENS</b>	
7	2/28-3/4	Private Attorneys in the Legal System	Chapter 5	
		Government Attorneys in the Legal System	Chapter 5	Quiz 7 Quiz 8 DB 6
8	3/7-3/11	Criminal Legal Process: Prior to Trial	Chapter 7	
		Criminal Legal Process: The Plea	Chapter 7	Essay 2 DB 7
9	3/14-3/18	SPRING BREAK	No Reading	Spring Break
		SPRING BREAK	No Reading	
10	3/21-3/25	Criminal Legal Process: After Trial	Chapter 7	Quiz 9 Quiz 10
		Civil Legal Process: Trials/Litigation	Chapter 8	DB 8

11	3/28-4/1	Civil Legal Process: Reforms/Controversy	Chapter 8	<b>Exam 2</b>
		<b>EXAM 2 OPENS</b>	<b>EXAM 2 OPENS</b>	
		Appellate Court Decision Making	Chapter 9	
12	4/4-4/8	Legal Reasoning and Interpretation	Chapter 9	Quiz 11 Quiz 12 DB 9
		Motivations in Judicial Decision Making	Chapter 9	
13	4/11-4/15	Judicial Policymaking	Chapter 10	Quiz 13 Quiz 14 DB 10
		Limitations on Judicial Policy Making	Chapter 6	
14	4/18-4/22	Limitations on Judicial Policy Making	Chapter 10	Essay 3
		The Impact of Judicial Policy Making	Chapter 10	Quiz 15
15	4/25-4/29	Review	No Reading	Essay 4
		Review	No Reading	
	FINALS WEEK	<b>Final Exam TBD</b>		<b>Exam 3</b>