



## Graduate Course Syllabus

### JUS 602: Courts and Judicial Process

Center: Online

#### Course Prerequisites

None

#### Course Description

This course is a study of select issues and problems concerning the judicial function and appellate process in the federal system. Initially, the course is devoted to a study of legal doctrine affecting the appellate process, including: jurisdictional issues of particular interest at the appellate level; final orders and interlocutory appeals; prudential considerations limiting appellate review; issues of federalism affecting relations between federal and state courts; waiver of appealable issues; the proper scope and standard of review (with emphasis on administrative agency appeals); and the remedial authority of the courts. The course ends with a focus on the judicial process from a more reflective and philosophical perspective, including: a critique of the judicial philosophies of some leading jurists; a consideration of the function of courts and judges in a democratic society; and preparation of a short paper dealing with some significant aspect of the judicial process.

#### Course Outcomes

- To explain the civil justice system and its greater implications for a just society
- To assess the various civil actions and remedies common in the American experience
- To illustrate at several causes of action in tort law including: intentional torts, negligence and strict liability cases
- To appraise the rationality of current damage models operating in civil litigation
- To define the various defenses available to those prosecuted in civil actions such as consent, assumption of risk and contributory negligence
- To discuss the many other forms of tortious conduct including trespass, nuisance, defamation, invasion of privacy and even more novel theories of civil responsibility such as wrongful death and birth
- To identify the procedural aspects of civil litigation from case investigation to witness preparation, discovery to trial and from appeal from judgment to severance
- To implement the multiple remedies and parties in a typical civil action
- To critique present reform efforts in the civil law

## Required Materials

Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through SNHU's online bookstore, [MBS Direct](#), rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the Help Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

*Courts, Judges, & Politics: An Introduction to Judicial Process*

Murphy, Pritchett, Epstein, and Lee

McGraw-Hill

6<sup>th</sup> Edition

2006

ISBN: 978-0-07-297705-9

## Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place in Blackboard on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions forum in Blackboard so that your questions and the instructor's answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours.

## Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussion	14	16	224
Short Paper	8	40	320
Course Project	1	290	290
Final Exam	1	150	150
		<b>Total Course Points:</b>	984

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

## University Grading System: Graduate

Total Points: 984				
Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points	Points Equivalent	
			Lower	Upper
A	93-100	4.00	915	984
A-	90-92	3.67	886	914
B+	87-89	3.33	856	885
B	83-86	3.00	817	855
B-	80-82	2.67	787	816
C+	77-79	2.33	758	786
C	73-76	2.00	718	757
F	0-72	0.00	0	717
I	Incomplete			
IF	Incomplete/Failure*			
W	Withdrawn			

\*Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

### Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Course Information area in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics folder.

### Weekly Assignment Schedule

The Learning Modules area in Blackboard contains one module folder for each week of the course. All reading and assignment information can be found in the folders. Assignments and discussion board posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module in Blackboard.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Political Jurisprudence – Courts in Constitutional Democracies Reading: <i>Courts, Judges, and Politics</i> , Chapter 1 1-1 Discussion: Marbury v. Madison 1-2 Course Project: Review Course Project Guidelines and Rubric 1-3 Short Paper
2	Judicial Organization/Judicial Selection and Retention Reading: <i>Courts, Judges, and Politics</i> , Chapters 3 and 4 2-1 Discussion: Judicial Selection and Retention 2-2 Course Project: Begin Working 2-3 Short Paper

3	<p>The Professional Bar and Judges and Judicial Power</p> <p>Reading: <i>Courts, Judges, and Politics</i>, Chapters 5 and 6</p> <p>3-1 Discussion: Judicial Review</p> <p>3-2 Discussion: Judicial Power</p> <p>3-3 Short Paper</p>
4	<p>Instruments and Limitations on Judicial Power</p> <p>Reading: <i>Courts, Judges, and Politics</i>, Chapters 7 and 8</p> <p>4-1 Discussion: Limitations of Judicial Power</p> <p>4-2 Self Check: Worksheet</p> <p>4-3 Short Paper</p>
5	<p>Judicial Decision Making</p> <p>Reading: <i>Courts, Judges, and Politics</i>, Chapter 9</p> <p>5-1 Discussion: The Adversarial Model</p> <p>5-2 Short Paper</p>
6	<p>Precedents and Legal Reasoning</p> <p>Reading: <i>Courts, Judges, and Politics</i>, Chapter 10</p> <p>6-1 Discussion: Judicial Precedent</p> <p>6-2 Discussion: Dissent</p> <p>6-3 Course Project Milestone No. 1: Submit Draft</p>
7	<p>Statutory Interpretation</p> <p>Reading: <i>Courts, Judges, and Politics</i>, Chapter 11</p> <p>7-1 Discussion: Statutory Interpretation</p> <p>7-2 Short Paper</p>
8	<p>Constitutional Interpretation</p> <p>Reading: <i>Courts, Judges, and Politics</i>, Chapter 12</p> <p>8-1 Discussion: Affairs of Constitutionalism</p> <p>8-2 Discussion: Separation of Powers</p> <p>8-3 Short Paper</p>
9	<p>The Processes of Judicial Decision Making</p> <p>Reading: <i>Courts, Judges, and Politics</i>, Chapter 13</p> <p>9-1 Discussion: Trial to Appellate Courts</p> <p>9-2 Short Paper: Performance Evaluation</p> <p>9-3 Course Project Milestone No. 2: Final Paper</p>
10	<p>The Impact of Judicial Decisions</p> <p>Reading: <i>Courts, Judges, and Politics</i>, Chapter 14</p> <p>10-1 Discussion: Public Opinion and the Judiciary</p> <p>10-2 Discussion: Reform Efforts</p> <p>10-3 Final Exam Submission</p>

**Attendance Policy**

Online students are required to post to the Blackboard discussion board during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a posting to the discussion board during the first week of class, the student is automatically withdrawn from the course for non-participation. Review the [full attendance policy](#).

**Late Assignments Policy**

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the [full late assignment policy](#).

**SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Guide to Student Success**

Review the [guide to student success](#).

**Diversity and Disability Statement**

The College of Online and Continuing Education (COCE) at SNHU values diversity and inclusion. SNHU strives to create inclusive and welcoming academic environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that present barriers to your inclusion, please notify the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible. We will work with you and your instructor to address needs and concerns.

We encourage all students with known or suspected physical, medical, sensory, psychiatric, and/or learning disabilities to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in order to assess learning needs and take advantage of available academic accommodations and support services. We look forward to hearing from you. Our contact information is below.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

(866) 305-9430

(877) 520-8916 (fax)

[drc@snhu.edu](mailto:drc@snhu.edu)

We welcome COCE students, faculty, and staff to consult with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) on disability-related questions or concerns.

**Academic Honesty Policy**

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic honesty policy](#).

**Copyright Policy**

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

**SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Withdrawal Policy**

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

**Southern New Hampshire University Policies**

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).

**Assessment Calibration and Student Work Samples**

For the purpose of continuous improvement of our educational training, Southern New Hampshire University's College of Online and Continuing Education may, on occasion, utilize anonymous student work samples for internal professional development and staff training. If you have any questions or concerns, contact your advisor. If you would like to withdraw permission for use of your work, please contact the assessment calibration administrator at [assessmentcalibration@snhu.edu](mailto:assessmentcalibration@snhu.edu). See [this document](#) for more information.