

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political science 360
Reading assignments

August, 2005

Mr. Lermack

Teaching Objectives: For students who have had little previous exposure to courts and law, the lectures and readings will provide some basic information about judicial procedures: who does what, in what sequence, with what powers, etc. In addition, since this is a political science course, we will discuss various ways in which political variables affect the administration of justice. In our federal system, states are responsible for most courts. Therefore, most of our time will be spent studying state and local governmental institutions. But the federal court system will also be discussed.

Texts: Neubauer and Meinhold, *Judicial Process...* 3d ed. ISBN 0-15-505839-8 (NEUB)
(Wadsworth Thomson Publishers)
Mays and Gregware, *Courts and Justice...* 3d ed. ISBN 1-57766-332-2 (MAYS)
(Waveland Press Inc.)

Method of Instruction: lecture-discussion. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings.

Grading will be on the basis of a comprehensive final exam, which will count 40% of the semester grade; two midterms, which will count 25% each, and an assessment of classroom performance, which will count 10%.

Attendance Policy: Regular attendance and participation in classroom recitations are essential to progress and are required. **The instructor will reduce the semester grade of any student with excessive unexcused absences by one full letter grade.**

Office hours (In Bradley Hall, room 488): Mon., 11-12 AM; Wed., 9-10 AM; Thurs. 1-2 PM; and by appointment: 677-2494 or pnl@bradley.edu

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READING ASSIGNMENTS

(Classroom discussion of the indicated topic will **begin** on the day indicated. The student should have completed the reading for that topic by that date.

30 Aug Criminal Justice As A Political Issue

REQUIRED: Neubauer and Meinhold (NEUB) ch. 1
Mays and Gregware (MAYS) pp. 33-49

6 Sep Courts As Organizations

Theme question: What do courts do? How are they organized and financed?

REQUIRED: NEUB ch. 2

13 Sep Court Systems

REQUIRED: NEUB chs 3 and 4

20 Sep Criminal Procedure

REQUIRED: NEUB ch. 8
MAYS pp. 25-32 and 67-86

-----**Exam, Thur. 6 OCT. covers all material above**-----

11 Oct Civil Procedure

REQUIRED: NEUB ch. 10

25 Oct Who Does What

REQUIRED: NEUB chs. 7, 11

1 Nov Lawyers And Other System "Actors"

REQUIRED: NEUB ch. 5
MAYS pp. 87-93 and 281-291

-----**Exam, Tues 10 Nov, coverage to be assigned**-----

15 Nov Judges

Theme question: How are judges different from other politicians?

REQUIRED: NEUB ch. 6
MAYS pp.228-243 and 353-363

23 Nov Trials

REQUIRED: NEUB ch. 12
Other readings to be assigned

30 Nov Sentencing

Theme question: Why do we punish?

REQUIRED: NEUB ch. 9

-----**Combined final exam, Fri. 9 Dec., covers whole**-----
semester's work
5-7 PM
BR 320 and 322