FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

COURSE CHANGE REQUEST
Undergraduate Programs

Department Political Science

College Honors College

UUPC Approval 3-30-26
UFS Approval _____
SCNS Submittal _____
Confirmed _____
Banner Posted _____
Catalog _____

***Current* Course Prefix and Number**	POS 4609	***Current* Course Title**	Honors The Judicial Process

*Syllabus must be attached for **ANY** changes to current course details. See Template. Please consult and list departments that may be affected by the changes; attach documentation.*

Change title to:

Change prefix
From: **To:**

Change course number
From: **To:**

Change credits*
From: **To:**

Change grading
From: **To:**

Change WAC/Gordon Rule status**
Add ☐ **Remove** ☐

Change General Education Requirements***
Add ☐ **Remove** ☐

*See Definition of a Credit Hour.
**WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See WAC Guidelines.
***GE criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See Intellectual Foundations Guidelines.

Change description to:

Change prerequisites/minimum grades to:
Change from prereq of POS 2041 to NO prerequisite

Change corequisites to:

Change registration controls to:

Please list existing and new pre/corequisites, specify AND or OR and include minimum passing grade (default is D-).

Effective Term/Year for Changes:	Fall 2026	**Terminate course? Effective Term/Year for Termination:**	

Faculty Contact/Email/Phone Mark Tunick, tunick@fau.edu, 6-8670

Approved by	***Date***
Department Chair M. A. V 3-3	3/20/26
College Curriculum Chair Tenje Hill	3-20-2026
College Dean Julie Ewbank	3/20/26
UUPC Chair Korey Sorge	3-30-26
Undergraduate Studies Dean Dan Meeroff	3-30-26
UFS President	
Provost	

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

Syllabus

POS 4609 - The Judicial Process

Spring 2026 (3 credits)

Mondays 6:00 p.m.-8:50 p.m. – SRC Room 258

Instructor: Amy S. Borman
Office: SR 216
Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:45 p.m.-6:00 p.m.; 9:00 p.m.-9:45 p.m. & by appointment
Contact: ABorman@fau.edu; (561) 385-0465
There are no prerequisites for this course.
Instructional method: in person

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This 3-credit course will examine the structural and behavioral components of justice in America. Topics to be covered include the role of law in society, the history and structure of American courts, and the processes of civil and criminal litigation.

COURSE GOALS

This course will provide an in-depth examination of the judiciary and law in American society. The student will obtain an understanding of the structure and role of the courts, types of law, the process of appointing/electing judges and the political implications, the organization of the American court system, theories of judicial decision making and behavior, the process and content of judicial policy making and the impact of judicial policies and decisions on American society.
Honors statement: This course fits within the honors curriculum as an elective for Law and Society and Political Science concentrations: there will be emphasis on class discussion and supplemental readings appropriate to an honors-level course.

COURSE EVALUATION METHOD

1,000 points total

200 points 20% of the final grade. Attendance & Class Participation:
Participation in classroom activities is mandatory. You must read the assigned materials before coming to class and be prepared to discuss the issues.

200 points 20% of the final grade. Weekly Assignments/Out of Class Assignment:
Assignments will be posted on Canvas at least one week before due date.

200 Points 20% of the final grade. Paper on Court Observations

400 Points 40% of the final grade – Exams (Mid Term and Final – each exam is worth 200 points) The examinations will be "open note". The exams will not be cumulative.

COURSE GRADING SCALE

A	92.5-100	A-	89.5-92.4		
B+	86.5-89.4	B	82.5-86.4	B-	79.5-82.4
C+	76.5-79.4	C	72.5-76.4	C-	69.5-72.4
D+	66.5-69.4	D	62.5-66.4	D-	59.5-62.4
F	<59.5				

POLICY ON ATTENDANCE, MAKE-UP EXAMS, AND LATE WORK

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance.

Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

The first unexcused absence will result in a 0 for the assignment due that day. Subsequent unexcused absences will result in a 0 for the assignment and a 1/2 letter grade deduction from your final grade. Exceptions are up to the instructor's discretion.

If an emergency exists that occurs on an exam date, prior approval of the instructor to make up the exam must be obtained unless the situation is such that communication is impossible.

Students MUST complete the February 2 assignment as it is in lieu of class. Failure to complete the assignment will result in a ½ letter grade deduction from your final grade. Exceptions are up to the instructor's discretion.

SPECIAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You will be required to watch a court proceeding at one of the Palm Beach County courthouses (Delray, Palm Beach Gardens, or West Palm Beach.) More details will be provided in class.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- *Judicial Process in America,* Robert Carp, 11th edition
- Additional reading materials as provided by instructor
- Additional reading materials as posted on Canvas

POLICY ON ACCOMMODATIONS

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses -- Boca Raton, SU 131 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 131 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter and all Northern Campuses, SR 111F (561-799-8585). Disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS) CENTER

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to http://www.fau.edu/counseling/

CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY STATEMENT

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001 and the WHC Academic Honor Code at http://www.fau.edu/honors/academics/honor-code.php.

Artificial Intelligence Preamble

FAU recognizes the value of generative AI in facilitating learning. However, output generated by artificial intelligence (AI), such as written words, computations, code, artwork, images, music, etc., for example, is drawn from previously published materials and is not your own original work.

FAU students are not permitted to use AI for any course work unless explicitly allowed to do so by the instructor of the class for a specific assignment. [Policy 10.16 Artificial Intelligence]

Class policies related to AI use are decided by the individual faculty. Some faculty may permit the use of AI in some assignments but not others, and some faculty may prohibit the use of AI in their course entirely. In the case that an instructor permits the use of AI for some assignments, the

assignment instructions will indicate when and how the use of AI is permitted in that specific assignment. It is the student's responsibility to comply with the instructor's expectations for each assignment in each course. When AI is authorized, the student is also responsible and accountable for the content of the work. AI may generate inaccurate, false, or exaggerated information. Users should approach any generated content with skepticism and review any information generated by AI before using generated content as-is.

If you are unclear about whether or not the use of AI is permitted, ask your instructor before starting the assignment.

Failure to comply with the requirements related to the use of AI may constitute a violation of the Florida Atlantic Code of Academic Integrity, Regulation 4.001.

Proper Citation: If the use of AI is permitted for a specific assignment, then use of the AI tool must be properly documented and cited. For more information on how to properly cite the use of AI tools, visit https://fau.edu/ai/citation

• AI Prohibited Policy:

The use of AI to assist in any work assigned in this specific course is prohibited.

COURSE OUTLINE*

*Subject to change

JANUARY 12

- **DISCUSSION:** Introduction to the Judicial Process, Law and Politics
- **READINGS:** Preface, Chapter 1 of the textbook, and any readings posted in Module 1 on Canvas
- **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT:** None

JANUARY 19

- MLK – NO CLASS

JANUARY 26

- **DISCUSSION:** The Judicial System
- **READINGS:** Chapters 2 and 3 of the textbook, and any readings posted in Module 2 on Canvas
- **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT (due before the start of class):** See Canvas.

FEBRUARY 2

- **NO CLASS**
- **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT:** Watch one of the movies in the list provided and write a 500-1,000 word paper on how this movie incorporates the themes discussed in class or in the textbook to date. Give examples of scenes from the movie. It is the quality of the paper – not the quantity of words – that matters. **Failure to complete this assignment (as it is in lieu of class) will result in a half a letter grade reduction from your final grade. (due February 4 at 11:59 p.m.)**

FEBRUARY 9

- **DISCUSSION:** The Jurisdiction of the Court and the Selection of State Court Judges
- **READINGS**: Chapters 4 and 5 of the textbook, and any readings posted in Module 3 on Canvas; Any readings posted in Module 4 on Canvas
- **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT (due before the start of class):** See Canvas

FEBRUARY 16

- **DISCUSSION:** Selection of Federal Judges
- **READINGS**: Chapters 6 and 7 of the textbook, and any readings posted in Module 5 on Canvas
- **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT (due before the start of class):** See Canvas

FEBRUARY 23

- **DISCUSSION:** The interplay between lawyers, litigants and special interest groups.
- **READINGS**: Chapter 8 of the textbook, and any readings posted in Module 6 on Canvas
- **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT (due before the start of class):** See Canvas

MARCH 2

- **EXAM 1**
- **DISCUSSION – IN CLASS VIDEO**

MARCH 9 – SPRING BREAK

MARCH 16

- **DISCUSSION:** Courts and their Agendas
- **READINGS**: Readings posted in Module 7 on Canvas
- **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT (due before the start of class):** See Canvas

MARCH 23

- **DISCUSSION:** Courts and Criminal Law
- **READINGS**: Chapters 9 and 10 of the textbook, and any readings posted in Module 8 on Canvas
- **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT (due before the start of class):** See Canvas

MARCH 30

- **DISCUSSION:** Courts and Civil Law
- **READINGS**: Chapter 11 of the textbook, and any readings posted in Module 9 on Canvas
- **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT (due before the start of class):** See Canvas

APRIL 6

- **DISCUSSION:** Decision making in the trial and appellate courts
- **READINGS**: Chapters 12 and 13 of the textbook and any readings posted in Module 10 on Canvas
- **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT (due before the start of class):** See Canvas

APRIL 13

- **DISCUSSION:** Implementation and Impact of Law and Courts
- **READINGS**: Chapters 14 and 15 of the textbook and any readings posted in Module 11 on Canvas
- **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT (due before the start of class):** See Canvas

APRIL 20

- **DISCUSSION:** Courts, Law, and Public Policy – "Hot Topics"
- **READINGS**: See Canvas Module 12
- **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT (due before the start of class):** See Canvas

APRIL 27

- **EXAM 2 including Presentations of Supreme Court Case**