Judicial Internship
Political Science 400 (Section 002)
Spring 2013

Professor Information
Professor Ryan Owens
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 11-12 or by appt.

Class Description.
The goal of this class is to teach you how the Supreme Court interacts with political institutions. We will examine various concepts such as the appointment process, jurisdiction, statutory interpretation, legislative power, and executive influence over the Court. Our readings will be a mix of social science research and Supreme Court opinions. At the end of the class, you will understand how Congress can influence the federal judiciary.

The Judicial Internship class offers advanced undergraduates with stellar records a unique opportunity to gain firsthand experience working within the judicial system of the state of Wisconsin. Interns will learn about the field of judicial administration, meet with key figures in the administration of the courts and provide research as needed by the Director of State Courts. The program offers interns a chance to gain different experiences than they receive from standard courses. By working within the state court system, students will learn firsthand how the third branch is administered.

Interns will perform a number of important tasks. They may summarize articles on the courts; prepare memos for the Director of State Courts or legislative liaison; and/or draft correspondence with critical figures. Interns may also conduct research for speeches and briefings. Finally, interns will examine a topic of interest within the court system and write a 30-page paper to the Director. The paper topic must be approved by the professor in charge of the class. This graded paper will serve as a useful writing sample should interns desire to apply for law school or graduate school.

Please note that this research is unrelated to the casework of the courts. Interns will not work on cases pending in the court system.

Sometime during the semester, interns will have lunch with the Chief Justice, and any other justices who elect to participate in the luncheon. Additionally, throughout the semester, interns may be allowed to participate in official or semi-official events, where appropriate.
Requirements and Grades.
Each week, I will assign a number of required readings. Unless otherwise noted, all articles will be available on the course website. I will base your grade on your in-class participation (40%) and your final paper (60%).

I expect you to come prepared to all classes. This means that you have read the material assigned and can discuss it. I expect students to be present and able to talk about the reading material for the day’s class. Unprepared classes are boring to teach and even more boring to sit through. So please come prepared.

Your final paper will be a report on an issue related to the modern court system (e.g., how to deal with social science and the law, how computers can be a problem/benefit to the system, etc.). You should work out your paper topic in conjunction with the Director and me.

There is only one required book for this class: John Monahan and W. Laurens Walker. 2010. *Social Science in Law* (7th Ed.) Foundation Press. While the new hardcover version of this book is expensive, older and soft cover editions are available online at a much cheaper price.

Class Behavior.
We all want to learn while in class, so do not speak out of turn or otherwise cause disruptions in class. Be respectful to your fellow students. If you fail to do so, university guidelines require me to take action. For more information, please see http://www.students.wisc.edu/rights/. Bottom line, I want you to talk in class—but not while I’m talking.

Academic Integrity.
All students are held to the university's academic integrity standards. For more information on those, please see: http://students.wisc.edu/saja/integrity.html.

Students Requiring Need-Based Accommodations.
Students who are requesting any accommodations on the basis of disability should schedule an office appointment with me within the first three weeks of the semester. Please schedule this office appointment by email. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach me before or after class to discuss your accommodation needs. The McBurney Disability Resource Center (263-2741) provides resources for students with disabilities (http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/). You will need to provide documentation of disability to them in order to receive official university services and accommodations.
Schedule

January 22: Introduction

- Discussion of syllabus
- Expectations of class

January 29: Judicial Independence


February 5: Judicial Selection in the States


February 12: Courts in the Digital Age

- Peter A. Winn. 2004. “Online Court Records: Balancing Judicial Accountability and Privacy in an Age of Electronic Information.” 

February 19: The Courts’ Relationship with the Media

  *Syracuse Law Review* 56: 419.

February 26: The Effect of the Media on Courts


March 5: Courts and Budgeting


March 12: Judicial Legitimacy


March 19: Decision Making on State Supreme Courts


April 2: Social Science and Law: A Primer

• M&W: Ch. 2, section 2.

April 9: Using Social Science to Determine Facts

• M&W: Ch. 3, section 1, 3, Ch. 5 section 2C.

April 16: Using Social Science to Make Law

• M&W: Ch. 4, section 2A, 2C, and 2D.

April 23: Using Social Science for Litigation Strategy,

• M&W: Ch. 6, section 1, 2.

April 30: Social Science and Policing

• Cynthia Lum & Christopher S. Koper & Cody W. Telep. 2010. “The Evidence-

May 7: Presentations and Wrap Up.