

Spring 2008
Phone 279-4556
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 8:00-8:30AM &
10AM-12PM; & Wednesday 4:30PM-5:30PM

Professor Jerry Simich
WRI B218
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PSC 730 Seminar in Constitutional Law

Objective: This course will focus on the role of the U.S. Supreme Court in American Politics and history.

Major topics to be analyzed are:

Methods of interpreting the Constitution
Judicial Activism

Readings:

Jeffrey Rose, *The Supreme Court: Personalities and Rivalries that Define America*

Sotirios Barber and James Fleming, *Constitutional Interpretation*

Howard Gillman, *The Constitution Besieged: The Rise and Demise of Lochner Era Police Powers Jurisprudence*

Thomas Keck, *The Most Activist Supreme Court in History*

Lucas Powe Jr., *The Warren Court in American Politics*

Kermit Roosevelt III, *The Myth of Judicial Activism*

Cass Sunstein, David Schkade, Lisa Ellman, & Andres Sawick, *Are Judges Political? An Empirical Analysis of the Federal Judiciary*

From time to time you will receive some handouts in class. This is a readings course, your grade will be based on the quality of your written reports, classroom participation and attendance. There is no term paper and no final examination.

Jan 30: Finish Rosen

Feb 6: Barber and Fleming

Feb 13: Gillman

Feb 20: Powe, Preface, Parts I & II

Feb 27: Powe, Parts III & IV

Mar 5: Keck, Parts I & II

Mar 26 Keck, Part III

To be Continued

Disability Resource Center

If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact the LES for coordination in your academic accommodations. Disability Service is located within the Learning Enhancement Services (LES), in the Reynolds Student Services Complex, Room 137. The phone number is (702) 895-0866 or TDD (702) 895-0652.

Academic Dishonesty

Any attempt to cheat on an examination or to present someone else's work as your own for a written assignment will be subject to the most severe penalty the University allows.

Religious Holidays and Absences

If you miss a class or an exam because of a religious holiday that you observe, you will have the opportunity to make up the missed work. You must notify the instructor at least 2 weeks prior to the examination.

Official Extracurricular Activity

If the date of any examination conflicts with an official extracurricular activity please notify the instructor at least 2 weeks prior to the examination and provide official written notification no less than 1 week prior to the examination.