

PLSC 305-2 Winter 2017

MW 2:00-3:15
Pray-Harrold 420
[CRN 23718]

Law & Policy in a Constitutional Democracy

Dr. Henschen
601Q Pray Harrold
Hours: MW 12:30-1:30 (office), by
email and by appointment
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In this course we will study lawmaking in the United States. While giving special emphasis to Congress and the Supreme Court, we will also examine the important roles that the president and administrative agencies play in shaping law and policy. The impact of federalism on lawmaking and the evolution of constitutional principles and powers will also be considered. Throughout our discussions, a recurring theme will be impact of the constitutional division of powers and the inter-institutional interaction that characterizes public policymaking in American democracy.

Books: REQUIRED

Greenhouse, Linda. 2012. *The U.S. Supreme Court: A Very Short Introduction*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Loomis, Burdett A. and Wendy J. Schiller. 2016. *The Contemporary Congress* (6e). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Optional reference on reserve: Sidlow, Edward and Beth Henschen. *GOVT 8*. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017, 2016.

Reading, Assignments, and Exam Schedule

January

4/Wednesday	Thinking About Democracy
9/Monday	Transition
11/Wednesday	Compromises and Choices: The Constitutional Context
16/Monday	MLK, Jr. Campus-Wide Celebration; no classes
18/Wednesday	The Congressional Design [Loomis & Schiller, 2]
23/Monday	The Institutionalization of Congress: <i>The Congress</i>
25/Wednesday	The Evolution of Representative Government: <i>The Congress</i>

30/Monday The Institutionalization of the Federal Judiciary
[Greenhouse, 1]

February

1/Wednesday The Congressional Enterprise [Loomis & Schiller, 8]

6/Monday Congressional Elections [Loomis & Schiller, 6]

8/Wednesday Representational Pressure [Loomis & Schiller, 1]

13/Monday Choosing Justices [Greenhouse, 3]

15/Wednesday The Policymaking Process in a Constitutional Democracy

20/Monday-22/Wednesday Winter Break

27/Monday Agenda Setting in an Increasingly Complex Congressional
Environment
[Loomis & Schiller, 3]

March

1/Wednesday The President as Chief Legislator [Loomis & Schiller, 5]

6/Monday Shaping the Court's Docket [Greenhouse, 2; 5 (pp. 52-56)]

8/Wednesday Issue Identification and Agenda Setting: the ACA

13/Monday Take Home Exam I/No Class Meeting

15/Wednesday Congressional Policymaking: Parties and Leaders
Loomis & Schiller, 4]

Take Home Exam I Due in Class 90 points

20/Monday Congressional Policymaking: In Committees, on the Floor
[Loomis & Schiller, 7]

22/Wednesday The Processes of Supreme Court Decision Making
[Greenhouse, 5 (pp. 48-52; 56-58)]

Leadership on the Court: The Chief Justice [Greenhouse, 4]

27/Monday	Influences on Supreme Court Decision Making [Greenhouse, 7]	
29/Wednesday	<i>The Supreme Court</i>	
April		
3/Monday	<i>The Supreme Court</i>	
5/Wednesday	Policy Choices: the ACA	
10/Monday	Take Home Exam II/No Class Meeting	
12/Wednesday	Inter-Institutional Interaction [Greenhouse, 6]	
	Take Home Exam II Due in Class	90 points
17/Monday	Congress: Looking Ahead [Loomis & Schiller, 9]	
	The Court and the World [Greenhouse, 8]	
19/Wednesday	Final Exam Period [1:30-3:00]	
	Exam III The Complex Environment of Policy Making	60 points

Summary of Graded Exercises:

March 15/Wednesday	Exam I Due in Class	90 points
April 12/Wednesday	Exam I Due in Class	90 points
April 19/Wednesday	Exam III (1:30-3:00)	60 points
Various	In-Class Writing Exercises*	60 points

Grading scale:

282-300 pts.	A	94-100%
270-281	A-	90-93
261-269	B+	87-89
249-260	B	83-86
240-248	B-	80-82
231-239	C+	77-79
219-230	C	73-76
210-218	C-	70-72
201-209	D+	67-69
189-200	D	63-66
180-188	D-	60-62
Below 180	F	Below 60%

Note: Be prepared, when called on, to contribute to class discussions and to provide thoughtful observations on the course material.

*In-Class Writing Exercises: There will be 3 in-class writing exercises, randomly offered. These are designed to make sure that you are keeping up with the reading and engaging in class discussions based on lectures. Your best grades on two of these exercises will count toward your final grade. Each exercise is worth 30 points.

Depending on the circumstances, any make-up work that is necessary/warranted may be given during the last week of classes. The format of the work may differ from the original.

Class attendance, good note taking, and careful reading are essential to doing well in this course. It is also important to *be present*—to be fully engaged during lectures and in class discussions. Laptops closed, phones put away...

Because this is an in-person class, there is no Canvas course shell for the course. Relevant course material and instructions related to exams and assignments will be provided in class or via email.

Check your university email frequently for announcements related to class.

Additional information regarding classroom matters will be discussed in class.

Go to <http://www.emich.edu/uwc> for information about the university writing center.

In addition to the articulated course specific policies and expectations, students are responsible for understanding all applicable University guidelines, policies, and procedures. The EMU Student Handbook is the primary resource provided to students to ensure that they have access to all university policies, support resources, and student's rights and responsibilities. Changes may be made to the EMU Student Handbook whenever necessary, and shall be effective

immediately, and/or as of the date on which a policy is formally adopted, and/or on the date specified in the amendment. Please note: Electing not to access the link provided below does not absolve a student of responsibility. For questions about any university policy, procedure, practice, or resource, please contact the Office of the Ombuds: 248 Student Center, 734.487.0074, emu_ombuds@emich.edu, or visit the website: www.emich.edu/ombuds

Dates and Deadlines

1/10/17	Last date to add courses via the web (a)
3/6/17	Last date to add courses with departmental authorization
1/13/17	Last date for 100% tuition refund (individual or total withdraw from term)
3/22/17	Last date for individual class withdrawal (with W grades) - No Refund
1/31/17 (b)	Last date for 50% tuition refund (total withdrawal only) with W grades
3/6/17 (b)	Last date for 25% tuition refund (total withdrawal only) with W grades
4/18/17 (b)	Last date for total withdrawal from term (with W grades) - No Refund
1/13/17	Last date to declare pass/fail grading option or select to audit a course
4/18/17	Last date to remove pass/fail grading option and receive letter grade

Codes

(a) Initial registration occurring on or after the Part of Term start date will incur a one-time \$160 late registration fee

(b) Date applicable only if student's classes are ALL within the same Part of Term and/or a later starting Part of Term

(**) A written request must be faxed to the Office of Records and Registration at 734.487.6808 before midnight