

PLSC 305-2 Fall 2018
MW 11:00-12:15
Pray-Harrold 420
[CRN 14280]

Law & Policy in a Constitutional Democracy
Dr. Henschen
601F Pray Harrold
Hours: MW 12:30-1:30 (office), and by
email and appointment
bhenschen@emich.edu
734.487.3113; 734.487.1398

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 that characterizes public policymaking in American democracy. Special focus this fall will be on assessing the national political landscape at midterm.

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. 2018. *The Contemporary Congress (7e)*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Optional reference on reserve: Sidlow, Edward and Beth Henschen. *GOVT 10*. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2019/ 2018.

Reading, Assignments, and Exam Schedule

September

5/Wednesday	Thinking About Democracy
10/Monday	The Constitutional Context: 230 Years and Counting
12/Wednesday	Constitutional Principles and Policymaking Midterms: Select Your Race
17/Monday	The Institutionalization of the Federal Judiciary [Greenhouse, 1]
19/Wednesday	Congress over Time [Loomis & Schiller, 2]
24/Monday	The Evolution of Congress: <i>The Congress</i>
26/Wednesday	The Promise of Congress: <i>The Congress</i> First Take: Run-Up to Midterms (15 points)

October

- 1/Monday Congressional Elections
[Loomis & Schiller, 4]
First Take (con't): Run-Up to Midterms (15 points)
- 3/Wednesday Choosing Justices
[Greenhouse, 3]
- 8/Monday Red versus Blue: Presidential Elections
- 10/Wednesday Exam I 50 points**
- The Evolution of the Institutions and the Selection of Policymakers*
[Loomis & Schiller, 2, 4; Greenhouse, 1, 3; DVDs]
- 15/Monday Agenda Setting: The Environment of Congressional Politics
[Loomis & Schiller, 3]
- 17/Wednesday Agenda Setting: The President as Chief Legislator
[Loomis & Schiller, 6]
- 22/Monday Agenda Setting: Shaping the Court's Docket
[Greenhouse, 2, 5 (pp. 52-56)]
- 24/Wednesday Congressional Parties and Leaders
[Loomis & Schiller, 5]
<https://www.pbs.org/video/crash-course-government-8>
- 29/Monday The Chief Justice
[Greenhouse, 4]
- 31/Wednesday Exam II 60 points**
- Setting the Agenda and the Role of Leaders*
[Loomis & Schiller, 3, 5, 6; Greenhouse, 2, 4, 5 (pp. 52-56)]
- November**
- 5/Monday Race to the Finish: Midterms Update in Class (15 points)**
- 6/Tuesday Election Day
- 7/Wednesday Election Recovery: No Class
- 12/Monday Election Outcomes: What Happened? Discuss!**
Election Wrap-Up (20 points)

14/Wednesday	Polycymaking in the House and Senate [Loomis & Schiller, 7, 1]
19/Monday	Polycymaking in the Supreme Court [Greenhouse, 5 (pp. 48-52; 56-58), 7]
21/Wednesday	No Class
26/Monday	<i>The Supreme Court</i>
28/Wednesday	<i>The Supreme Court</i>
December	
3/Monday	A Tale of Inter-Institutional Interaction [Greenhouse, 6]
5/Wednesday	Peaceful Transitions of Power: <i>Flipping the White House</i>
10/Monday	Looking Ahead: Law and Policy in a Constitutional Democracy [Loomis & Schiller, 8, 9; Greenhouse, 8]
17/Monday	Exam III [11:00-12:30] 40 points <i>Polycymaking in a Constitutional Democracy</i> [Loomis & Schiller, 1, 7, 8, 9; Greenhouse, 5 (pp. 48-52; 56-58), 6, 7, 8]

Summary of Graded Exercises:

There will be three exams over the course of the semester, as noted above. In addition, in-class discussions, with each student responsible for sharing the status of a contested race, will focus on the midterm elections.

Grading scale:

188-200 points	A	94-100%
180-187	A-	90-93
174-179	B+	87-89
166-173	B	83-86
160-165	B-	80-82
154-159	C+	77-79
146-153	C	73-76
140-145	C-	70-72
134-139	D+	67-69
126-133	D	63-66
120-125	D-	60-62
Below 120	F	Below 60%

In-Class Engagement is Important: Be prepared to contribute to class discussions and to provide thoughtful observations on the course material. 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... Additional classroom matters will be discussed if/when the need arises.

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.

Because this is an in-person class, there is no Canvas shell for the course. I will review with you the way you can keep track of your grade in the course. Relevant course material and instructions related to exams and assignments will be provided in class. Check your university email frequently for announcements related to class.

UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER
115 Halle Library
734-487-0694

<http://www.emich.edu/uwc>

FALL 2018 SYLLABUS TEXT

The **University Writing Center** (115 Halle Library; 487-0694) offers one-to-one writing consulting for both undergraduate and graduate students. Hours are **10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays**. The UWC opens **Monday, September 10**, and closes **Thursday, December 13**.

The UWC also has several college and program satellite locations across campus. **The locations and hours for the other satellites can be found on the UWC web site:** <http://www.emich.edu/ccw/writing-center/contact.php>

Students seeking writing support at any UWC location should bring a draft of their writing (along with any relevant instructions or rubrics) to work on during the consultation.

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."

University Course Policies: <http://www.emich.edu/studenthandbook/policies/academic.php#univ>

Student Handbook Link: <https://www.emich.edu/studenthandbook/index.php>

Graduate School Policies: <http://www.emich.edu/graduate/policies/index.php>

Additional Resources:

Library Research and Technology Help

The EMU Library offers support for finding, evaluating, and using information sources for research papers and projects.

Use **Library research guides** for your assignments or subject area. You'll also find **self-service help** on using the library, research basics, plagiarism, and citing sources at:

<http://www.emich.edu/library/help/index.php>

Get **one-on-one research help** by visiting the Library, calling the Information Desk at 734-487-2445, or making an appointment with a subject specialist librarian. Subject specialist librarians, assigned to

each EMU department, can give you friendly expert advice on your research project. You can also **consult a librarian online** via the 24/7 *Ask-A-Librarian* chat service. For details, visit: <http://www.emich.edu/library/help/ask.php>

The **Academic Projects Center**, *located on the Halle Library first floor*, offers drop-in help with research, writing, and technology to improve the quality of your research paper, project, or presentation. You can get help with brainstorming ideas, finding sources, structuring an essay, or putting together a presentation using PowerPoint or Emich Google Apps. The APC is staffed by writing and technology consultants as well as Library faculty. More info at: <http://www.emich.edu/apc/>

Fall 2018 Registration Dates and Deadlines

Deadlines shown here are for Part of Term 1 (15 week session) only.

Last date to add courses via the web (a)

Oct. 26, 2018

Last date to add courses with departmental authorization

Sept. 14, 2018

Last date for 100% tuition refund (individual or total withdraw from term)

Nov. 13, 2018

Last date for individual class withdrawal (with W grades) - No Refund

Oct. 1, 2018 (b)

Last date for 50% tuition refund (total withdrawal only) with W grades

Oct. 26, 2018 (b)

Last date for 25% tuition refund (total withdrawal only) with W grades

Dec. 11, 2018 (b)

Last date for total withdrawal from term (with W grades) - No Refund

Sept. 14, 2018

Last date to declare pass/fail grading option or select to audit a course

Dec. 11, 2018

Last date to remove pass/fail grading option and receive letter grade

(a) Initial registration occurring on or after the Part of Term start date will incur a one-time \$175 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.