Law and Society: Women of the Supreme Court (ONLINE)
POLS 3322
CRN: 24572
Spring 2024

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Office Hours: Virtually via Zoom: W 12-2 pm or by appointment

Course Information:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Law and Society: This course explores the history of women attorneys in the United States Supreme Court. The students will learn about the rise of women practicing on and before the highest court. The course will take an in depth look into female attorneys: from Belva Lockwood, the first woman admitted to practice before the Supreme Court in 1879 to Ketanji Brown Jackson becoming the first black female Supreme Court Justice in 2022.

In this course, students will learn about the impact of female Supreme Court Justices and female attorneys practicing before the Supreme Court. Topics will include: What types of cases were argued by these women before the Supreme Court? How did those cases change the law? How did the female Justices get to the Supreme Court? How have these Supreme Court Justices ruled during their time on the Supreme Court? How did politics effect the Justices road to the Supreme Court?

As part of the course, we will review relevant cases, we will watch some film that focus on women attorneys and the Supreme Court, and we will discuss court rulings. To enhance the learning process, we may introduce speakers who are experienced expert and lay (fact) witnesses from various disciplines in order to address specific topics.

This will be a “hands on” course, requiring participation in class discussions, evaluation of issues, and the presentation of legal arguments and understanding of legal cases.

COURSE OBJECTIVES OR EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Learn about the history if the United States Supreme Court
- Learn about the structure of the United States Supreme Court
- Understand the beginnings of women in the legal field
- Understand the important cases related to women’s rights
- Understand the rise of women serving on the United States Supreme Court
LEARNING MODULES
This course is designed using a modular format—that is, each week is “packaged” as a single module so that all the materials, lecture notes, submission areas, discussion posts are in one area for a given week.

REQUIRED MATERIALS


Additional Readings, to include relevant cases and handout materials that will be provided to you during the semester.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING
Assignments for this course are assessed according to rubrics. You can find these rubrics by clicking on the appropriate assignment link in Blackboard and choosing to “View Rubric” from the button beneath the Points Possible for the assignment.

Grade Distribution:
100-90 = A  89-80 = B  79-75 = C  74-70 = D  69 and Below = F
   o  35 points: Class Lectures/Weekly Discussion Boards
   o  15 Points: Weekly Assignments
   o  25 Points: Final Paper
   o  25 Points: Group Project
   o  EC = Extra Credit

Final Paper: Students will conduct research on a social, political, or ethical issue related to the U.S. Supreme Court and Women’s Rights and will then write a paper that will illustrate how that issue has impacted their lives.

Group Project: Students will be assigned a group. The group project will focus on the six (6) women who have served on the Supreme Court. The group will be required to submit periodic updates on the project.

Assignments: Students will be given weekly assignments. Students are expected to use class videos and discussions to complete these assignments.
Class Lectures and Weekly Discussion Boards: For this online course, students will be required to watch the class lectures participate in weekly discussion boards – both an initial post and responses to your peers. Each of these activities will be given point values that add up to the total 100-point participation grade. These points cannot be made up, so students are expected to stay active in the course by logging in at least three times a week.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP’s Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

Course Communication:

Because this is an online class, we won’t see each other in the ways you may be accustomed to: during class time, small group meetings, and office hours. However, there are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- **Office Hours:** We will not be able to meet on campus, but I will still have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours will be held on Zoom using this link: [https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/8463287603](https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/8463287603) and during the following times:
  - Wednesdays: 12-2 p.m. Mountain Time or by appointment
- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the
end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.

- **Discussion Board:** If you have a question that you believe other students may also have, please post it in the Help Board of the discussion boards inside of Blackboard. Please respond to other students’ questions if you have a helpful response.

- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

**NETIQUETTE**

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It’s possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other’s ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else’s message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

**Course Policies:** What do you need to do to be successful in the course

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course lectures and materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- Participating in engaging discussion with your peers on the discussion boards (grading rubric provided in the “grading information” area of each forum)
- Participating in scheduled Blackboard Collaborate sessions
- Other activities as indicated in the weekly modules
Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY**

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar’s Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course.

**DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY**

**Final Paper**
- Final Paper will be due on Monday, May 6, 2024 at 11:59 PM. No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

**Class Participation/Discussion Boards**
- All discussion board assignments will be due on Sundays at 11:59 PM. No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

**Assignments**
- All assignments will be due on Sundays at 11:59 PM. No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

**Group Project**
- Group projects will be due on Monday, April 29th at 11:59 PM. No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

**MAKE-UP WORK**

Make-up work will be given only in the case of a documented emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

**ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES**

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, assignments, final paper and group project) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are
experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones’ own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

CLASS RECORDINGS
The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures and group discussions boards. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP’s acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. **You may not share recordings outside of this course.** Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

**COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS**

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

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**Course Resources:** Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

**Technology Resources**
- **Help Desk:** Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

**Academic Resources**
- **UTEP Library:** Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- **University Writing Center (UWC):** Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- **History Tutoring Center (HTC):** Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- **RefWorks:** A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

**Individual Resources**
- **Military Student Success Center:** Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- **Center for Accommodations and Support Services:** Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- **Counseling and Psychological Services:** Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.