

POLS 5442: Constitutional Law: Separation of Powers

Fall 2014

Department of Political Science
Idaho State University

1 Instructor Information

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Office Hours: Mondays: 2:00pm to 3:00pm,
Tuesdays 12:00pm to 2:00pm
and by appointment
Class Location: Rendezvous 107
Course Time: 10:00 to 10:50 MWF

2 A Note About This Supplement

This document serves as a supplement to the POLS 4442 syllabus for graduate students enrolled in POLS 5442. Everything on the POLS 4442 syllabus applies to POLS 5442, unless otherwise noted here. As graduate students, I expect you to go above and beyond the expectations outlined in the undergraduate syllabus. Since many of you will be future professors yourselves, I expect you to be the leaders in classroom discussion and success.

All of the readings and assignments listed on the POLS 4442 syllabus apply (though I will grade you more strictly than the undergraduates). You will also complete a separate research paper. Accordingly, your assessment scale is different from that used by the undergraduates.

I also highly encourage you work together with fellow graduate students in the class (for instance, read each other's drafts and discuss cases together. Also, you should not hesitate to contact me with any questions, to look over drafts, etc. Please feel free to drop by my office, even outside of office hours (though an e-mail in advance is always appreciated) .

3 Course Format

Graduate level work is characterized by a commitment to academic excellence. This excellence includes always attending class (I understand emergencies happen) and actively participating in classroom discussion. To this end, I expect you to not only read the material, but to actively participate in the classroom discussion (of course, don't monopolize the discussion from the undergrads). To this end, you will notice that both quizzes and attendance and participation are not listed under assessment; those should be excellent as a matter of course.

4 Requirements

Assessment

This course is worth 100 points which are broken up over several different items

- Exams: 30 points
 - Case Briefs: 10 points
 - Classroom Teaching: 10 points
 - Research Project: 50 points
1. **Case Briefs (10 points)**— Briefs are legal summaries of cases and will be invaluable if you teach Constitutional Law in the future. Early in the semester I will go over the proper format for briefs as well as provide examples. All briefs must be typed and turned in as a hard copy, I do not accept briefs via e-mail. All briefs must be stapled, with your name on each page. **Late briefs will not be accepted.** On most weeks, there is a brief specified for completion on Friday. I will not collect every brief, but I will randomly choose six briefs over the course of the semester which I will grade. Each brief is worth 2% of your final grade, meaning you can safely skip one brief- or do all six briefs for extra credit. I do, however, suggest that you brief all cases. It will help you retain information and they will prove a very useful resource later. Please see the separate “Brief How-to” guide for more information.

 2. **Exams (30 points)**—There are three exams, none of which are cumulative. The three exams will only cover material from the last exam until the current exam. Each exam is worth 10 points, which is to say a letter grade. All exams will be blue book based and can consist of short identification terms, hypothetical cases which you will be asked to decide based on the case law we have discussed in class, or essays. **You must bring a bluebook to the exam.** I suggest you go to the bookstore and buy a few bluebooks at the start of the semester so you are not in any danger of not having one on exam day (They cost about 50 cents each). You should note that if you are unable to take the exam at the scheduled time, the make-up exam will be a separate research paper.

 3. **Classroom Teaching (10 points)**— Early in the semester you should identify a topical area you are interested in (it can be the same as that which you are writing your final paper on) to me. You will then teach that topic to the undergraduates in POLS 4442 (a total of two classes). While I fully anticipate you will get nearly full credit for this assignment, I encourage you to prepare extensively and go over your lecture outline and slides with me in advance. For more information please see the Classroom Teaching Supplement.

 4. **Research Project (50 points)**— The writing assignment makes up the single largest component of your grade, but it is broken up over several different assignments. In this project, you will produce a research paper which explores some aspect of this class in significant depth. For more information, please see the Research Paper Supplement.

Assessment Scale

A: 93-100	A-: 90-92	B+: 87-89	B: 83-86	B-: 80-82	C+: 77-79
C: 73-76	C-: 70-72	D+: 67-69	D: 63-66	D-: 60-62	F: <60