

POLS 5599: Law & Society

Fall 2016

Department of Political Science
Idaho State University

1 Instructor Information

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Office Hours: Mondays: 1:00pm to 2:00pm,
Tuesdays 1:00pm to 3:00pm
and by appointment
Class Location: Rendezvous 106
Course Time: 10:00am to 10:50am MWF

2 A Note About This Supplement

This document serves as a supplement to the POLS 4499-02 syllabus for graduate students enrolled in POLS 5599. Everything on the POLS 4499 syllabus applies to POLS 5599, 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.

Since you are graduate students, I will grade you more strictly than the undergraduates and your assignments differ substantially from the undergraduate assignments. While I ask a lot, please understand that I am always available to help you.

While your assignments are individual, I encourage you work together with fellow graduate students in the class (for instance, read each other's drafts and discuss paper ideas together). 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

- Practice Comprehensive Exam: 20 points

- Research Project: 52 points
 - Synthesis Papers: 28 points
1. **Practice Comprehensive Exam (20 points)**—One of the most trying parts of a doctoral program is the comprehensive exam. In order to prepare you for your future exams, you will complete a “practice” comprehensive exam during finals week. The exam will consist of two essays. For the first one there will get a set of three questions, from which you select one. For the second, you will be asked to identify an area of law and society research which requires more attention and why (hint: elaborate on your research paper here). The exam will be take-home, you will have 24-hours to complete it. We will collectively decide which 24-hour period during finals week to hold the exam later in the semester.
 2. **Research Project (52 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.
 3. **Synthesis Papers (28 points):**— You will prepare three five to seven page syntheses of one of the topics we discuss in class summarizing the key theoretical contribution of each piece and suggesting future avenues for research (seriously, whatever you think might be of theoretical interest!). Importantly, you should focus in on one aspect of the topic **and** you should search for recent scholarship not listed on the syllabus to make your argument. This is perhaps best done by using the “cited by” function in Google Scholar. Importantly, these papers should not be a list of summaries, rather you should weave them into a cohesive whole. For more information see the Synthesis 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