Instructor: Jonathan Parent  
Email: jp857435@albany.edu  
Office Hours: M 3:30-4:30 (Humanities B16); W 3:30-4:30 (Humanities B16) and by appointment.

Course Description  
This course will examine the U.S. Supreme Court through both text and cases. The topics include – the evolution of the judiciary and its effects on the other branches of government, the influence of the Court on the incorporation of civil liberties, internal institutions of the Court and models of judicial decision-making, and issues around judicial appointments. The course goals are to improve students understanding of how the Court functions, and to develop critical analytical skills concerning prevalent claims about the Supreme Court.

Attendance, Reading and Participation  
Class attendance is very important. Students are not only expected to attend class, but to have read all assigned readings for that day. Quality participation also will contribute positively to your grade. If you miss class you are responsible for getting the material covered.

Exams  
1. This course will have two mid-term exams on Thursday, October 8, and on Thursday, November 5.  
2. There will be 2 short written assignments during the course, the details of which will be described in class.  
3. There will be a final examination. Place and time TBA. This will be a cumulative examination covering all the material in the course.  
4. We will have 2 unannounced quizzes during the semester.  
5. Opportunities to earn extra credit by participating in political science research projects might be available during the semester.

Cheating and Plagiarism  
Plagiarism is the use of another’s ideas, writing, etc. as one’s own. It is an extremely serious offense. Students found to be in violation of these academic standards will AT THE VERY LEAST receive a grade of F on the assignment in question and will quite likely receive a failing grade for the entire course. In addition, such cases will be referred to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies with a request for further sanctions. The safest way to avoid this fate is to remember the cardinal rule of academic honesty: If in doubt, cite. Sources of information are very easy to find. Explaining to your parents,
potential employers, or law school application boards why you were kicked out of school is not. And remember, if you can find it, I can find it.

Access to Blackboard
You can access class information on Blackboard through your MyUAlbany account. Class syllabus and calendar are available on the course site. In addition, some of the assignments and exams will also be made available there. Log on to use helpful Internet links and other useful information online.

Assistance
If you are having any difficulties with the course material or assignments, I encourage you to come and talk to me. I will be available during office hours (see above) and by appointment. Also, if you are not facing any problems but would like to talk about the course, please feel free to come talk to me.

Grade Formula
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (total)</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterms (total)</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Papers (total)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>11%</td>
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Required Texts
(available from Mary Jane’s bookstore located at 215 Western Avenue (465-2238), from University at Albany Bookstore, Barnes and Noble (442-5698) or online):


Additional reading materials will include Supreme Court cases and journal articles. All are available online.

Useful Websites
Jstor - http://www.jstor.org/
Findlaw - http://findlaw.com/
The Supreme Court Official Website - http://www.supremecourtus.gov/
SCOTUS blog - http://www.scotusblog.com/movabletype/
http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/currentawareness/ussupremes.php
The Oyez Project - http://www.oyez.org/
Legal Information Institute, Cornell Law School - http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/index.html
On the Docket, Northwestern University - http://docket.medill.northwestern.edu/

COURSE OUTLINE
(Note: Supplementary readings are listed in the required textbooks. You should take a look at these lists and pick books to read on topics that might interest you).

Week 1 (August 30-September 3): Syllabus distribution, Introduction, and Assignments. The Founding and Judicial Review.
Readings: The US Constitution (Articles I & III); McCloskey Chapter 1.

Week 2 (September 6-10): The Founding and Judicial Review, continued. Readings: Marbury v. Madison; Ex Parte McCardle; Federalist Paper #78.

Week 3 (September 13-17): Founding and Judicial Review; Court's History. Readings: Baum Ch. 1; McCloskey Ch. 2-4, 7, 8.
1st Short Paper Due – September 17

Week 4 (September 20-24): Internal Institutions of the Court; Judicial Decision Making Models. Readings: Baum Chapter 4; SCAMR Chapters 1, 2, 3.


Week 6 (October 4-8): Judicial Decision Making Models. Readings: SCAMR Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10.
1st MIDTERM EXAM - tentatively set for October 8

Week 7 (October 11-15): Judicial Appointments Readings: Baum Chapter 2.


Week 9 (October 25-29): The Legislature and the Executive; Incorporating the Bill of Rights Readings: Barron v. Baltimore; Hurtado v. CA; Palko v. Connecticut; Duncan v. LA.


Week 11 (November 8-12): 1st Amendment – Religion Establishment and Exercise
Readings: Cantwell v. CT; Sherbert v. Verner; WI v. Yoder; Lemon v. Kurtzman; Agostini v. Felton; Employment Division, Department of Human Resources of Oregon v. Smith; City of Boerne v. Flores.

Week 12 (November 15-19): 1st Amendment – Religion Establishment and Exercise
Readings: Cantwell v. CT; Sherbert v. Verner; WI v. Yoder; Lemon v. Kurtzman; Agostini v. Felton; Employment Division, Department of Human Resources of Oregon v. Smith; City of Boerne v. Flores.
2nd Short Paper Due – November 19

Week 13 (November 22-26): Civil Rights
November 26 - No Class – Thanksgiving

Week 14 (Nov. 29-Dec. 3): Civil Rights, continued; Protection of the criminally accused.