

Course Code: 99901816

Course Title: American Judicial System

1. 课堂讲授学时 Lecture Hours: 32

2. 课堂实验学时 Laboratory Hours

3. 课下研讨学时 Colloquia Hours

4. 学生课下投入学时 Individual Study Hours: 64

5. 学分 Credits

6. 开课学年学期 summer school

7. 先修课程 Prerequisite(s)

- Mandatory: LAW101 Introduction to Law

- Recommended: American Government and Politics

8. 课程概要 Course Description

This course explores the structure, functions, and principles of the U.S. judicial system, covering federal and state court hierarchies, judicial review, due process, and landmark Supreme Court cases. Key themes include constitutional interpretation, civil liberties, and the judiciary's role in American democracy.

9. 课程预期学习成果 Course Outcomes

1. Analyze the jurisdiction and hierarchy of federal and state courts.
2. Explain the concept and application of judicial review in constitutional law.
3. Evaluate the impact of landmark Supreme Court cases on civil rights and liberties.
4. Compare the roles of judges, juries, and attorneys in the U.S. legal process.
5. Interpret legal reasoning in judicial opinions and case briefs.
6. Discuss the relationship between the judiciary and other branches of government.
7. Assess the influence of public opinion and politics on judicial decision-making.
8. Apply legal principles to hypothetical scenarios involving constitutional disputes.
9. Critique the strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. judicial system in promoting justice.

10. 教学内容与学时分配 Course Content

| Chapter/Topic | Lecture Hours | Content Summary |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---|
| 1. Introduction to U.S. Judiciary | 4 | Overview of the judicial branch; separation of powers; federal vs. state courts. |
| 2. Federal Court System | 6 | Structure of district courts, courts of appeals, and the Supreme Court; jurisdiction. |
| 3. State Court Systems | 4 | Diversity of state courts; trial courts, appellate courts, and state supreme courts. |

4. Judicial Review & Constitutional Interpretation 6 Marbury v. Madison; methods of constitutional interpretation (originalism, living constitutionalism).
5. Civil Liberties & Landmark Cases 6 First Amendment, due process, equal protection; cases like Brown v. Board of Education, Roe v. Wade.
6. The Supreme Court in Action 4 Nomination process, confirmation hearings, and decision-making dynamics.
7. Contemporary Issues in the Judiciary 2 Judicial activism vs. restraint; diversity on the bench; technology and the courts.

11. 考核与成绩评定 Grading

- Prerequisite quiz: 10%
- Homework: 20%
- In-class Quizzes: 15%
- Group Presentation: 25%
- Final Exam: 30%

12. 教材、参考书 Text & Reference Book

- Required Text:
 - Epstein, L., & Walker, T. G. (2020). Constitutional Law for a Changing America: Institutional Powers and Constraints (9th ed.). CQ Press. ISBN: 978-1544364933
- Recommended References:
 - Scalia, A. (1997). A Matter of Interpretation: Federal Courts and the Law. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 978-0691004006
 - O' Brien, D. M. (2017). Storm Center: The Supreme Court in American Politics (11th ed.). W.W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 978-0393602657

13. 编写教师 Course Lecturer: yinghuicai