

POL 3702 - Law and Society

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43175,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Matthew Ritzman

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Matthew E. Ritzman, Ph.D., J.D.,

Instructor Professional Qualifications: Dr. Matthew E. Ritzman is an attorney licensed in Ohio and Michigan. He maintains an active labor and employment practice. He previously served in government for 18 years, including five years as an attorney for a federal agency handling unfair labor practice litigation involving both unions and employers. Dr. Ritzman has also taught college courses for more than ten years.

Academic Credentials

Juris Doctorate, Law, The University of Toledo—College of Law, 2019

Ph.D., Education - Curriculum and Instruction, The University of Toledo, 2014

Master's, Educational Technology, University of Toledo

Bachelor's, Criminal Justice, University of Toledo

Associates, Criminal Justice, Owens Community College

Instructor Office Location: DeBartolo Hall 401

Instructor Office Phone: 330-941-3448

Course Description

3702. Law and Society. The American judicial system, its institutional development and its role in policy determination, as evidenced in leading Supreme Court decisions. Limited coverage of state judicial systems. Prereq.: POL 1560. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	The Supreme Court, 15th ed., (Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2024)	Lawrence Baum	1071901710
Required	United States Supreme Court Decisions and Documents		

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Syllabus Read "An Introduction to the United States Constitution"	Course Introduction - Structure of Government	Read syllabus and complete posted Blackboard Activities and Assignments by Sunday at 11:59pm
8/31	The Bill of Rights *Get and Review Baum Textbook	An Introduction to the Supreme Court and Constitutional Law	Complete posted Blackboard Activities and Assignments by Sunday at 11:59pm



9/7	1. Read Baum Textbook – Chapter 1 pages 1-13 2. Supreme Court Justice Public Biographies	The Supreme Court's Jurisdiction and the Justices	Complete posted Blackboard Activities and Assignments by Sunday at 11:59pm
9/14	Read Baum Textbook – Chapter 1 pages 13-26	What do Supreme Court Justices do?	Complete posted Blackboard Activities and Assignments by Sunday at 11:59pm
9/21	Read Baum Textbook – Chapter 2 pages 27 - 48	The Selection of Supreme Court Justices	Complete posted Blackboard Activities and Assignments by Sunday at 11:59pm
9/28	Read Baum Textbook – Chapter 2 pages 49-66 2. Supreme Court Case Decision Readings	The Supreme Court Justices	Complete posted Blackboard Activities and Assignments by Sunday at 11:59pm
10/5	Read Baum Textbook – Chapter 3 pages 73-93 2. Supreme Court Case Decision Readings	Supreme Court Cases	Complete posted Blackboard Activities and Assignments by Sunday at 11:59pm
10/12	1. Read Baum Textbook – Chapter 3 pages 73- 109 2. Supreme Court Case Decision Readings	Supreme Court Cases	Complete posted Blackboard Activities and Assignments by Sunday at 11:59pm
10/19	Read Baum Textbook – Chapter 4 pages 117-138	Supreme Court Decisions	Complete posted Blackboard Activities and Assignments by Sunday at 11:59pm
10/26	Read Baum Textbook – Chapter 4 pages 139-161	Supreme Court Decisions	Complete posted Blackboard Activities and Assignments by Sunday at 11:59pm
11/2	Read Baum Textbook – Chapter 5 page 171 - 184	Public Policy and Statutory Interpretation	Complete posted Blackboard Activities and Assignments by Sunday at 11:59pm
11/9	Read Baum Textbook – Chapter 5 page 185 - 198	Public Policy and Civil Liberties	Complete posted Blackboard Activities and Assignments by Sunday at 11:59pm
11/16	Read Baum Textbook – Chapter 6 page 203-210	The Supreme Court's Impact	Complete posted Blackboard Activities and Assignments by Sunday at 11:59pm
11/23	1. Read Baum Textbook – Chapter 6 page 211-219 2. Supreme Court Writ of Certiorari	Important Issues Before the Supreme Court	Complete posted Blackboard Activities and Assignments by Sunday at 11:59pm
11/30	1. Read Baum Textbook – Chapter 6 page 220-229 2. Supreme Court Writ of Certiorari	Important Issues Before the Supreme Court	Final Assignment – posted on Blackboard - due on 12/13 at 11:59pm
12/7	Read Baum Textbook – Chapter 6 page 229-239	Important Issues Before the Supreme Court	Final Assignment – posted on Blackboard - due on 12/13 at 11:59pm

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.