Overview: The Public Law field of study is diverse and growing. It is grounded in U.S. Constitutional Law / Interpretation and includes the study of the Philosophy of Law / Jurisprudence and Constitutional Theory in its sub-fields. However, this seminar focuses on none of these things; rather, it draws material from three other sub-fields to study Public Law at the intersection of Judicial Politics, American Constitutional History, and Comparative Law and Constitutionalism. The seminar also seeks to deepen participants understanding of the methodology of social science research, including project design.

Class Discussion: This seminar is emphatically not a lecture class. Everyone is expected to come to class prepared to fully participate in the discussion of the readings. Each week a different member of the class will help lead discussion.

Course Requirements: Weekly response papers (500 words, wks 2,3, 13 & six of 6-8,10,11,14,15). Short paper: apply comparative theory to the American case (6-8 pages; due Feb 14). Short paper: literature review (6-8 pages; due Mar 22). Long paper: seminar paper or lit review and project proposal (appropriate length, due May xx).

Books to buy, borrow, or otherwise get your hands on:


Grading: 100-92% = A; 91.95-90% = A-; 89.95-88% = B+; 87.95-82% =B; 81.95-80% =B-; <80% = C. Long paper 50% grade. Short papers 30% grade. Participation (incl. seminar ldrship and weekly response) 20% grade.
Course Outline:
(You are responsible for the following material by the date listed.)

Week One: Jan 14 ~ Intro: Judicial Politics and the Public Law sub-field.


Week Two: Jan 21 ~ MLK Day / RESCHEDULE CLASS ~ hold T, W, Th, or F

Comparative Law and Constitutionalism I / Theories of Constitutionalization


Introduce Short Paper Project #1

Week Three: Jan 28 ~ Comparative Law and Constitutionalism II


Week Four: Feb 4 Comparative Law and Constitutionalism III

Short Paper Project Meeting Day.
Week Five: Feb 11 ~ Constitutional History I / Classic Rendition (Dualism)


Short paper #1 due Feb 14th, 5pm.

Week Six: Feb 18 ~ Constitutional History II / the Regime Politics Approach

Required:


Recommended:


Week Seven: Feb 25 Constitutional History III / the Regime Politics Approach (duex)


Week Eight: Mar 4 Constitutional History IV / Courts and Realignment


**Week Nine:** Mar 11 Spring Break / NO CLASS

**Week Ten:** Mar 18 Constitutional History V / the Development of Political Regimes


*Short paper #2 due Mar 21st 5pm.*

**Week Eleven:** Mar 25 ~ Judicial Politics I / Strategic Behavior


**Week Twelve:** Apr 1 ~ Easter / NO CLASS

**Week Thirteen:** Apr 8 ~ Judicial Politics II / Not-so-Strategic Behavior


**Week Fourteen:** Apr 15 ~ Judicial Politics III / the Attitudinal Model


**Week Fifteen:** Apr 22 ~ Judicial Politics IV / Instrument of Social Change?


**Week Sixteen:** Apr 29 ~ End of semester meeting, poolside, chez Nichols.

Long paper project due May xx 5pm.