

W&M in Washington

Fall 2006

*Courting Politics, Politicking the Courts:
The Intersections Between Law and Politics
(Taught by Professor Chris Nemacheck)*

The semester's theme focuses on debunking the myth of a politically isolated judiciary. We will examine the American legal system, the roles of various legal actors, and the manner in which the judicial system affects, and is affected by, the other branches of government. In doing so, we will analyze and evaluate the role of political actors and prominent issues addressed by the legal system.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY INDEPENDENT STUDY: PLAYING IN THE
INTERSECTIONS OF LAW AND POLITICS**

(INTR 490: 4 credit hours)

This independent study course is a venue through which to think about the practical implications of the intersections between law and politics through the lens of student internships in legal and political institutions. The semester's program is designed to be an integrated experience in which students complete writing assignments, of both a narrow and extended focus, to assess the ways in which law and politics intersect in their individual work experiences.

SEMINAR ON THE INTERSECTIONS OF LAW AND POLITICS

(GOVT 491: 4 credit hours) Meets Fridays, 1:00pm-5:00pm

This seminar will be an examination of the intersections of law and politics using academic and scholarly sources as well as the experiences of practitioners in the legal and political system. Guest speakers will provide unique insight into different aspects of our legal system. Readings will be assigned to correspond with speakers' visits and provide you with background information on the topic to be discussed.

AMERICAN LEGAL PROCESS

(GOVT 372: 4 credit hours) Meets T/R, 6:00-8:00pm

This course is intended to provide an introduction to the American legal system. Its aim is to examine court functions, the roles of various legal actors, including citizens in their role as jurors, and the manner in which the judicial system affects, and is affected by, other branches of government. A main focus of the course will be on the intersection between law and politics. The course is not designed to be a primer on civil liberties or civil rights, or any other area of law, however we will examine case law as we analyze the prominence of politics in the legal process. We will further analyze and evaluate the role of political actors and prominent issues addressed by the legal system.