Instructor
Andrew D. Martin, Ph.D.
Office: LSA, Suite 2005
Email: admart@umich.edu
Web: http://sites.lsa.umich.edu/admart/
Phone: (734) 764-0322
Office Hours: Tues 8:00-9:00 AM

Class Schedule
Wed 4:00-6:00 PM
Mason 3333

Course Description
Judges play a crucially important role in American governance because nearly all political issues end up in the courts. The purpose of this course is to look at how politics affect what judges do. Understanding of how judges decide cases is also of fundamental importance for those seeking to explain how law evolves over time and how it is applied in particular instances. This course highlights important normative debates about the appropriate role of judges and to survey the social scientific literature on how judges make decisions.

The main reading material for the course will come from a book titled Judicial Decisionmaking that Professor Martin is writing with Professors Tom Clark (Emory, Political Science), Barry Friedman (NYU, Law), Allison Orr Larsen (William & Mary, Law), and Maggie Lemos (Duke, Law). All course materials will be made available on Canvas.

Requirements and Evaluation
Class meetings will be conducted as a mix between discussion and lecture. Students are expected to come to class fully prepared to discuss the merits—or lack thereof—of the assigned readings. This means reading all of the assigned material ahead of time and thinking critically about how the various arguments might fit together. Class attendance is mandatory. Please consult with me in advance if you cannot attend a class meeting for any reason.

Class evaluation will come from two short essays and class participation. Here are the particulars:

• Supreme Court Forecast. On November 4, 2015, we will assign the first short essay (3-4 pages), which will be due on November 18, 2015, in class. You will be given a list of cases that the Supreme Court will be deciding this term, and you will
be asked to provide a forecast of what the Supreme Court will do this term, drawing on the briefs in the case, media coverage, and what you’ve learned in the course. These essays will be graded, and you will have the opportunity to revise your essay for a re-grade before December 2, 2015. This essay will count for 40% of your final grade.

- **President Hypothetical.** On November 18, 2015, we will assign the second short essay (3-4 pages). These essays will be due on Monday, December 14 by 5:00 PM. We will provide a detailed hypothetical that will require you to make a recommendation to a future president about his or her nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court. We will spend our class time on November 25, 2015, as a workshop to brainstorm collectively about the hypothetical. These essays will be graded, and will count for 40% of your final course grade.

- **Class Participation.** Each student will also be evaluated on class participation. Class participation will constitute the remaining twenty percent (20%) of each student’s final course grade.

Grades will be assigned as follows: 90%-100% A, 80%-89% B, 70%-79% C, 60-69% D, 0-59% E. Plusses or minuses will be given for scores within two points of a cutoff, and by discretion of Professor Martin. Late assignments will not be accepted, and no incompletes will be assigned, but for extreme circumstances. Failure to meet the requirements of the course will result in a failing grade.

**Teaching Assistant**

There is one graduate student instructor (GSI) assigned to this course:

Ms. Kya Henley  
Email: henley@umich.edu  
Office: LSA Room 3209  
Office Hours: Thur 3:00-5:00 PM

**Students with Disabilities**

If you think you may need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at the beginning of the term. Next, you should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation (VISA) form and we can arrange for your accommodation. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

If you already have a VISA form from SSD, please present this form to me at the beginning of the term, but no later than at least two weeks prior to the need for the accommodation so that there is enough time for the appropriate arrangements to be made.
Academic Misconduct

The University of Michigan community functions best when its members treat one another with honesty, fairness, respect, and trust. The College promotes the assumption of personal responsibility and integrity, and prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty and misconduct. All cases of academic misconduct will be referred to the Office of the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education. Being found responsible for academic misconduct will usually result in a grade sanction, in addition to any sanction from the College. For more information, including examples of behaviors that are considered academic misconduct and potential sanctions, please see http://www.lsa.umich.edu/academicintegrity.

Student Sexual Misconduct Policy

Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes sexual misconduct — including harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We understand that sexual violence can undermine students’ academic success and we encourage anyone dealing with sexual misconduct to talk to someone about their experience, so they can get the support they need. Confidential support and academic advocacy can be found with the Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center (SAPAC) on their 24-hour crisis line, (734) 936-3333 and at sapac.umich.edu. Alleged violations can be non-confidentially reported to the Office for Institutional Equity (OIE) at institutional.equity@umich.edu.

Course Topics and Schedule

As a mini-seminar, the number of times class meets is few. However we will cover multiple concepts in each class. Therefore, attendance in class is paramount to comprehension and to cohesiveness of your learning experience.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/28</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Understanding the Federal Courts (all)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Understanding the Federal Courts (all)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Part I Intro, Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/18</td>
<td>Ideology</td>
<td>Chapter 3 Ideology</td>
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<td>11/25</td>
<td>In-Class Workshop on Second Assignment</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/2</td>
<td>Selection and Retention</td>
<td>Chapter 4, Selection and Retention</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/9</td>
<td>Special Guests: Justices from the Michigan Supreme Court</td>
<td>None</td>
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