

Judicial Decisionmaking
Prof. Friedman
Spring 2014

Class Information and First Class Assignment

Our class meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:00 am - 11:00 am, in Room 214 of Furman Hall. (Furman Hall, for those of you not in the law school, sits on Sullivan Street at 3rd Street.) Our first class will be Wednesday January 22.

The text for this class is a book that I am currently writing with a distinguished group of law professors and political scientists: Tom Clark (Emory Politics); Maggie Lemos (Duke Law); Andrew Martin (Wash U Politics and Law); Ted Ruger (Penn Law). We have been working on it for some time, and hope to publish it within the next couple of years. Among other things, I will be looking for your feedback on the text.

I have posted the first chapter of the book on NYU Classes. This chapter was written to introduce you to the various topics and themes we will cover throughout the semester. As you will see, it is centered around the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, and its race cases before and after.

I am very uncertain of the pace of teaching this material, as I have never taught it before. My estimate is that it will take us at least a couple of classes to cover the first chapter.

For the first class, please read pp. 1-36 of the first chapter of the book.

Although the class is primarily law students, there are a few undergraduates and graduate students. I have asked my TA for the class, Dan Nowicki (dsn248@nyu.edu), to hold a session in the first week or two of the semester for the non-law students, in order to talk about reading and briefing law cases, and to provide some fundamentals on the U.S. Legal System.

I am excited to be teaching this course, and look very forward to meeting with you.

Best regards,



Barry Friedman