

Today's Supreme Court
Tuesday, September-November 2022
1:45 to 3:15

Syllabus

Class texts: Linda Greenhouse, *The US Supreme Court: A Very Short Introduction (2nd edition)*
Jeffery Toobin, *The Oath: the Obama White House and the Supreme Court*

Reading Assignments

Class Topics

Class # 1 Class Overview and Court History

September 20 Greenhouse: Chapter 1 - Origins
Toobin: Introduction and Chapters 1 & 2

Class Purpose & Process
History of the Supreme Court
Roberts & Obama

Class # 2 Roberts Court in Operation

September 27 Greenhouse: Chapter 2 – The Court at Work (1)
Greenhouse: Chapter 5 – The Court at Work (2)
Toobin: Chapter 3, 4, & 5

Supreme Court Procedures
Competing Legal Philosophies
Ledbetter, McDonnell (2016)
Ginsburg

Class # 3 Facing the Executive & Legislature

October 4 Greenhouse: Chapter 6 - The Court & Other Branches

Separation of Powers
Guantanamo Cases (*Hamdan*),
Noel Canning (2014), *US v Texas* (2016),
Trump cases (2018-21), Biden cases (2022)
Kennedy

Class # 4 Race

October 11 Greenhouse: Chapter 4 - The Chief Justices
Toobin: Chapter 6

Affirmative Action & Voting Rights
Parents Involved, Schuette (2014),
Fisher (2016); *Shelby County* (2013),
Brnovich (2021)
Breyer

Class # 5 Climate Change & Guns

October 18 Toobin: Chapters 7, 8, & 9

MA v EPA, UARG (2014), *WV v EPA* (2022)
Heller, McDonald & Bruen (2022)
Scalia

Class # 6 Money and Elections

October 25 Toobin: Chapters 11, 12, 13, & 14

Election Law, Judicial Impact
Citizens United, McCutchen (2013)
Rucho (2019), 2020-22 election cases

Class # 7 The Supreme Court Changes

November 1 Greenhouse: Chapter 3 – The Justices
Toobin: Chapter 10, 15, 16, 17 & 20

O'Connor, Souter, Stevens,
Alito, Sotomayor, Kagan, Gorsuch,
Kavanaugh, Barrett, Jackson

Class # 8 Health Care & the Commerce Clause

November 8 Toobin: Chapters 18, 19, 21, 22, & 23

Commerce Clause
Affordable Care Act, Hobby Lobby &
Wheaton College (2014), *King v Burwell*
(2015), *Texas v US* (2019), *CA v TX* (2020)

Class # 9 Judicial Activism and the Public Good

November 15 Greenhouse: Chapter 7 - The Court and the Public
Greenhouse: Chapter 8 - The Court and the World
Toobin: Epilogue

Public Opinion & Public Concerns
An Activist & Polarized Court
Present & Future Battlegrounds
Thomas

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