

Current Issues Before the Supreme Court

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Brief Description: The course will be lecture/discussion. The first class will be a lecture concerning the structure of the Federal court system, how & why individual cases are & are not accepted by the Supreme Court and how the Court approaches cases. Thereafter, the weekly classes will discuss one case each week, the case being one of general public interest currently being considered by the Court. I will begin each class explaining the competing arguments being made by each side in the case, summarize prior Court decisions that may be relevant and then open the floor to class discussion of the relative merits of the arguments being made, the relevance or lack thereof of prior decisions and how the Court might ultimately rule in the case.

Schedule:

Week 1- A lecture concerning the structure of the Federal court system, how & why individual cases are & are not accepted by the Supreme Court and how the Court approaches cases

Weeks 2-11- Will depend on the cases that are under consideration by the Court at the time of the weekly class. I anticipate being able to give the class at least two weeks prior notice of the case we will be discussing in a given week