



## About this Course

Science and Law Seminar  
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## Objectives

- Produce a paper that you can publish or use as a writing sample.
- Make the step from thinking like a lawyer to thinking like a scholar.
- Explore the intersection of science and law.

## Class Website

- The home for information about the course is the course website:  
[http://www.ericejohnson.com/courses/science\\_and\\_law\\_20/](http://www.ericejohnson.com/courses/science_and_law_20/)
- It has the syllabus and chart of assignments. It's where I'll post slideshows, handouts, links to supplemental reading, etc.
- We will also use Canvas, mostly for turning things in.

## Slides

- I don't always use slides, but when I do ...
- My practice is to read every word on every slide.
- And I will post all slides with text content to the class website after the class in which they are used.
- Therefore, I strongly urge you not to try to read the slides in class. Just listen. Then, look at the slides later to review things.

## **Syllabus**

- Read the syllabus!
- You are assumed to be on notice for everything in it.
- It is long, but reading it is worth it.
- It is your guide to how to do well in class.
- It is my guide to what I've committed to, how I grade, and how I handle any problems.
- It is posted on the class website.

## **Some key classroom rules**

- No eating.
- No audio or video recording.
- No electronic communications with others in class.
- No distracting content on screens (incl. video and animated gifs).
- Read the syllabus for all classroom rules.

## Grading

- Read the syllabus, it talks about grading in detail! What follows are highlights.
- Regular letter grades will be given for this course (A+, A, A-, B+, etc.).
- Generally done as follows
  - 3/4 paper component
    - including final paper and intermediate deliverables
  - 1/4 class participation
- Note that your course grade may be affected by things set out in the syllabus, including:
  - attendance
  - academic misconduct
  - lateness in turning things in

## Grading

- There is no pre-determined grade-point average or grade distribution for the class. So you are not in competition with your fellow students for a limited pool of grades! Favor cooperation.
- The initial assignment of grades will be done by seeing the raw point totals from the paper component and class-participation component and inserting cut-offs based on clumps and my sense of how performance corresponds to letter grades.
- Alternative minimum grading: According to the schedule (§ 8-3). E.g., if you got 87% of max possible points, then you can't get lower than an B+ for the exam grade.
- You get the higher grade of the two methods.

## Grading

- Your initial assignment of grade may be adjusted up or down.
- Discretionary adjustments:
  - Can go one step up (e.g., B+ to A-) for class participation. In unusual situations, two steps up.
- Deficient attendance and academic misconduct can lower the course grade (or lead to administrative withdrawal or an F).

## Attendance Policy

- It's § 11 in the syllabus. Read it! You're responsible for knowing all of it.
- These are only highlights.
- Attendance log—fill this out only for yourself.
- Self-report early departures.
- Late slips—you must fill one out before taking seat.
- Arriving late is half an absence.

## **Attendance Policy: automatic step-downs**

- Three absences is a step-down in grade.
- Four absences is another step-down.
- Five absences is an F for the course or administrative withdrawal.
- If you hit five absences, you must immediately give me written notice according to § 11-5.

## **Special Extenuating Circumstances**

- If you claim special extenuating circumstances and/or excuse for religious observance, you must file an End-of-Semester Mitigation Statement according to § 11-6.
- It must be filed not earlier than the last day of class, nor later than the day after the last scheduled day of final exams for OU Law.
- Take a moment now to calendar this.