

**Objective 1: Understand the nature of the judicial system.**

1. Explain the difference between criminal law and civil law.
  - a. Criminal:
  
  
  - b. Civil:
  
2. List three regular participants in the judicial system other than judges..
  - a.
  
  - b.
  
  - c.
  
3. What is meant by "justiciable disputes?"

**4. Objective 2: Explain how courts in the United States are organized and the nature of their jurisdiction.**

1. What are the differences between constitutional courts and legislative courts?

Constitutional:

Legislative:

2. Complete the following table on the structure of the federal judicial system.

<b>Court</b>	<b># of Courts</b>	<b># of Judges</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Policy Implications</b>
District				
Court of Appeal				
Supreme Court				

3. What is the role of a U.S. attorney?

**Objective 3: Describe the role of judges in the judicial process, including their backgrounds and how they were selected.**

1. Explain the practice of "senatorial courtesy."

2. Name three conditions in which nominations to the Supreme Court are more likely to run into trouble.

a.

b.

c.

3. Present a demographic profile of the "typical" federal judge..

4. List six criteria that have been important in choosing Supreme Court justices over the years.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

**Objective 4: Discuss Supreme Court policymaking and judicial implementation.**

1. What are the four key functions of the solicitor general?

a.

c.

b.

d.

2. What are the functions of *amicus curiae* briefs?

3. What is the difference between a majority opinion, a dissenting opinion, and a concurring opinion?  
**Majority Opinion**                      **Dissenting Opinion**                      **Concurring Opinion**

4. What is the difference between *stare decisis* and precedent?

**stare decisis**                                      **precedent**

5. List and explain the three elements of judicial implementation according to Charles Johnson and Bradley Canon.

- a.
- b.
- c.

**Objective 5: Explain the role of the courts in shaping the policy agenda in America.**

1. Explain the principle of judicial review.

2. Complete the following table on public policy and the Supreme Court.

<b>Court</b>	<b>Basic Ideology</b>	<b>Judicial Restraint or Judicial Activism</b>	<b>Key Cases</b>
Warren Court			
Burger Court			
Rehnquist Court			

**Objective 6: Evaluate how the courts operate in a democratic system and how their activities affect the scope of government.**

1. In what ways might it be said that courts are not a very democratic institution?

2. Explain the difference between judicial activism and judicial restraint.

Judicial Activism:

Judicial Restraint:

3. Define the terms "political question" and "statutory construction" as they apply to the Supreme Court and give an example of each.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Example</b>
Political question		
Statutory construction		

**KEY TERMS**

- standing to sue
- class action suits
- justiciable disputes
- amicus curiae* briefs
- original jurisdiction
- appellate jurisdiction
- district courts
- courts of appeal
- Supreme Court
- senatorial courtesy
- solicitor general
- opinion
- stare decisis*
- precedent
- original intent
- judicial implementation
- Marbury v. Madison*
- judicial review
- United States v. Nixon*
- judicial restraint
- judicial activism
- political questions
- statutory construction