SYLLABUS FOR SEPARATION OF POWERS SEMINAR
Professor Bruff
Fall 2009


Meetings. We will meet Wednesday from 2:30 to 4:20 in Room 411, beginning on August 26th.

My availability. You can find me in Room 413, on (303) 735-3536, or at Harold.Bruff@Colorado.edu. If I’m too busy to talk I’ll tell you that. An easy way to find me is to email asking to meet, with some times you can do that, and I’ll pick one that fits my schedule.

Course Requirements: There are three main components to the seminar. Please do not take the seminar unless you are prepared to commit to all three. First, the research paper. A main goal of this seminar is for you to produce a paper that develops and displays the research and analytic skills that a graduating law student should possess. The paper will meet the writing requirement for graduation. It should be about 20-30 pages in length and fully cited. A typical law review note will provide an example. The schedule for the steps in producing the paper appears below with the assignments. Second, each of you will choose a chapter from Presidential Power Stories and will lead the seminar discussion of it for 50 minutes. Selection is first come, first served. Third, your attendance and participation in the seminar sessions is crucial and will count in the final grade. There is no exam.

Assignments. (We begin in Balance of Forces (BOF) and then shift to Presidential Power Stories (PPS). Other materials are noted as Supp., and will be posted to TWEN.)

Aug. 26: BOF, Preface and 1-32
Sept. 2: BOF, 33-76
Sept. 9: BOF, 77-126
Sept. 16: BOF, 127-169 (Paper topic selections due)
Sept. 23: BOF, 219-257; Presidential signing statements (Supp.)
Sept. 30: BOF, 257-290 (Outlines due)
Oct. 7: BOF, 311-356
Oct. 14: BOF, 356-365; Executive privilege in the Bush administration (Supp.)


Oct. 28: PPS, chs. 3 & 4 (First drafts due.)

Nov. 4: PPS, chs. 5 & 6

Nov. 11: PPS, chs. 7 & 8

Nov. 18: PPS, chs. 9 & 10

Dec. 2: PPS, chs. 11 & 12

Dec. 7: Final Papers Due.

Suggested paper topics:
- Presidential Signing Statements
- Criminal Searches of Congressional Offices
- Ethics and Executive Advisers
- Ethics Enforcement within Congress
- Political Supervision of US Attorneys
- Obama Administration Supervision of Regulation
- Repairing the Judicial Confirmation Mess
- The Future of Presidential Impeachment
- War Powers in the Twenty-First Century
- Foreign Policy Powers of Executive and Congress Today
- Executive Power in Domestic Matters
- NSA Domestic Surveillance
- A Selected Aspect of:
  - Detention and Trial of Enemy Combatants
  - Torture
  - Law and Terror