

Women and the Law
Spring 2017: 01:790:395/01:202:389
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Wednesdays 6:00-8:40pm LA274

Course Description and Requirements

In this course, we will examine the influence and impact of gender bias in law and policy as it relates to the economy, sexuality, gender violence, and equality under the law. Class sessions will include lectures, guest speakers, discussions, and small-group presentations. Successful completion of this course is heavily dependent upon attendance, class participation, and timely submission of assignments. Students are expected to read and reflect on all assigned materials before class and be prepared to engage in meaningful discussion.

You will keep a journal recording your responses to the readings, lectures, and discussions. Your responses are not a summary of the material, but rather a short paragraph or two demonstrating your understanding of the main ideas. Your journal will be helpful in organizing your thoughts for your papers. There are no right or wrong answers. Your journal is an opportunity to respond to the readings, lectures, and class discussions; maintain a record of key points; and formulate questions. There is no minimum word count; the emphasis is on quality over quantity. We encourage you to make thoughtful entries as they will be of great use to you when writing your final paper and preparing your group presentations. Your journal entries will also include questions for guest speakers.

There will be a final paper of 12-15 pages. The final paper will be a cumulative work that demonstrates your understanding of the course topics. Done well, your journal entries can serve as an annotated bibliography.

Grading

Participation and Attendance (15%)
Group Presentation (20%)
Journal Entries (15%)
Midterm Exam (20%)
Final Paper (30%)

Required Texts

Martha Burk, *Your Voice, Your Vote* (2016-2018 Edition)
Cynthia R. Daniels, *At Women's Expense: State Power and the Politics of Fetal Rights*
Mary Gatta, *Not Just Getting By: The New Era of Flexible Workforce Development*
Additional readings are listed on the next page.

Academic Integrity Policy

Students are responsible for compliance with Rutgers' Academic Integrity Policy, which can be found at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

Course Topics and Readings:

Please note that we reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on the Sakai course site with ample time for students to plan accordingly.

Class 1: Introductions and Overview

Class 2-3: Equality

- Your Voice. Your Vote chapter 17, pp 215-223: Education and Title IX, Back to Separate But (Un)equal
- Your Voice. Your Vote chapter 19, pp239-245: More than a Few Good Women in the Military
- Title IX
- ERA Overview
- U.S. v. Virginia
- Rostker v. Goldberg

Class 4-6 ;Sexuality and Reproduction

- Your Voice. Your Vote chapter12, pp 159-182: Reproductive Rights, the Perpetual Attack
- At Women's Expense: State Power and the Politics of Fetal Rights chapter 1: Fetal Animation: The Political and Cultural Emergence of Fetal Rights
- Race, Gender, and Genetic Technologies: A New Reproductive Dystopia? -Dorothy Roberts,
- Griswold v. Connecticut
- Bowers v. Hardwick
- Lawrence v. Texas
- Eisenstadt v. Baird
- Roe v. Wade
- Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey
- Gonzales v. Carhart

Class 7-8: Economic Participation

- At Women's Expense: State Power and the Politics of Fetal Rights, chapter 3: From Protecting the Woman to Privileging the Fetus: The Case of Johnson Controls
- Your Voice. Your Vote chapter 9, pp 107-118: Pay Equity. Show Me the Money
- Not Just Getting By chapter 3, pp39-58: Workforce Development and Welfare Policy Explored through an Intersectional Lens
- Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson
- Lilly Ledbetter Act

Class 9: In-Class Exam

Class 10-11: Violence

- Your Voice. Your Vote chapter 13, pp183-189: Violence against Women
- VAWA
- Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000
- Town of Castle Rock v. Gonzales
- United States v. Morrison

Class 12-13: Group Presentations

Class 14: Review and Make Up