

Instructor: Dorian Dreyfuss, M.A., J.D.
M/W 12:00-1:15; T/Th 12:-1:15
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SPRING 2000

AJ 132
WOMEN, MINORITIES AND THE LAW

COURSE DESCRIPTION

History of legal issues and definitions of individual and institutional discrimination. Laws relating to women, ethnic and cultural minorities in education, labor market, criminal justice system and family relations. Recent court decisions on affirmative action and reverse discrimination. Solutions to structured equality and inequality in the U.S.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

AT THE TIME OF THE FINAL STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

1. Define concepts of different cultural/social identities and theories of prejudice and discrimination from a multidisciplinary and multicultural perspective
2. Describe the legal history and current legal context of minority group and gender discrimination
3. Identify the structural sources of inequality and equality in major societal institutions; family, education, labor market, criminal justice, and religion, and how these inequalities and equalities are reflected in the law
4. Analyze case law and constitutional guidelines in reviewing claims of discrimination by women and men, by racial/ethnic and religious minority groups, by the aged, the disabled, and by persons of different sexual orientation
5. Analyze competing legal rights of men and women in domestic relations including marriage, reproduction, adoption, child custody and divorce.
6. Analyze legal and social developments in issues relating to sexual harassment, hate crimes, and affirmative action/reverse discrimination
7. Identify social and political movements offering solutions to structured inequality between people of different race, ethnicity, gender, class, religion, age, sexual orientation and ability

8. Recognize your own and others' attitudes towards racism, sexism and discrimination of all groups
9. Recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural and social groups and identities in the U.S.
10. Gain greater competence in research and writing skills
11. Gain greater verbal articulation skills, and ability to communicate with people of different background and identities

REQUIRED TEXTS

Cyrus, Virginia (2000). Experiencing Race, Class and Gender in the United States. Mountain View, Ca: Mayfield Press.

Lindgren & Taub(1993).Law of Sex Discrimination.Minneapolis, MN: West Publishing.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Three exams are required; two midterms and final administered in class during the final examination period. A total of 3500 words of writing is required for credit in the class. Each exam is 2/3's essay (approximately 500-600 words) and 1/3 multiple choice. A research paper 8-10 pages in length (2000-2500) words is also required for a total of 3500 or more words. A handout on the paper will be provided outlining topics, research requirements, format, outlines, due date and grading procedures. We will conduct a library tour outside class time if necessary. Instructor will provide extensive feedback on research paper drafts submitted at least two weeks before paper due date. Additionally, two in class structured written assignments are required. They will be based on videos, and will be a review of major concepts of equality and inequality. Small group discussions based on the Cyrus readings will be spaced every 3-4 weeks. Participation in the group will be evaluated by the instructor and points distributed.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Regular class attendance is expected. Outstanding class participation may result in the improvement of the final grade by 1/2 grade point. Readings must be completed prior to the class meeting to promote understanding and informed class discussion. Students must Bring the appropriate text--Cyrus if small group discussions; Lindgren if case law discussion. Check the greensheet to ensure you are prepared. If you are absent you must rely on classmates for notes. Do not ask the instructor for her notes. Missed exams and in class assignments may only be made up for compelling reasons. They will be administered during finals week, but the instructor must have received notice of the absence!

EVALUATION

Midterm #1	25% includes in class writing assignment #1
Midterm #2	25% includes in class writing assignment #2
Final	25%
Research Paper	25%
Participation	5%

Exams will receive a letter grade and a point distribution will illustrate class standing. Extra credit may be generated based on additional readings provided by the instructor. Please speak to the instructor if you are interested. PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE FOR ANY EXAM!

COURSE SCHEDULE

- WEEK 1** **I INTRODUCTION-MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH**
- A. Concepts of identity, race, gender, ethnicity, class.
Readings: Cyrus: intro. Pg. 1-13, articles 1, 2, 3, 18, 19,22, 24, 27,47.
 - B. Hate Crimes; video Shadow of Hate.
Readings: Cyrus: article 45
- WEEK 2**
- C. Discrimination and the law
Cyrus: article 44 (historical context)
Lindgren: cp. 2- pg. 51-90
 - D. **Small group discussion on Cyrus readings**
 - E. Theories of Prejudice and Discrimination handout
- WEEK 3** **II HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF DISCRIMINATION**
- A. Native Americans
Readings: Cyrus: articles; 49,50,128,132
 - B. Video Ishi, in class writing assignment.
- WEEK 4**
- C. African-Americans
Readings: Cyrus: articles 61, 64, 66,126, caselaw handout
Extra credit: McBride: The Color of Water (1997)
Reflection paper 10 pts.
 - D. Eyes on the Prize, Vol 2 Desegregation; Brown v Board Of Education (1955) Optional: Separate But Equal (Video)
- FIRST MIDTERM EXAM MARCH 6 & 7**
- WEEK 5**
- E. Hispanics
Readings: Cyrus; articles 51, 56,109, 113, 124.

- WEEK 6**
- F. Asians
Readings: Cyrus: articles 6,58,59; Optional: Huston (1972) Farewell to Manzano; Reflection paper 10 pts.
- G. Video History of Chinatown, in class writing assignment
- WEEK 7**
- H. Religious Minorities
Review Hate Crimes
Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Amish
Readings: class notes only
- WEEK 8**
- III STRUCTURED EQUALITY AND INEQUALITY**
- A.. Gender Discrimination/Patriarchal tradition/legal
Legal discrimination
Readings: Lindgren Cp. 1; stop on page 35
- B. SECOND MIDTERM EXAM APRIL 17-18
DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE**
- WEEK 9**
- C. Education/Title 9
Handout
- D. Labor Market
Readings: Lindgren Cp. 4 cases only
Cyrus: articles 89, 93, 105, 106
- WEEK 10**
- E. Sex Harassment
Reading: Lindgren Cp. 5 pg. 201-222; Cp. 6 pg. 314-322
- WEEK 11**
- F. Justice System: Women Offenders/ Victims
Readings: Cyrus: articles 77, 79, 80,81
Lindgren pg. 345-350; Cp. 9 pg. 508-516
- WEEK 12**
- IV POWER AND CLASSISM**
- A. Family Relations including Gays/Lesbians
Readings: Lindgren Cp. 7, skip 340-345; 356-366; 386-395; stop at 410.
- B. Reproductive Choices
Lindgren: Cp. 8, skip pages 434-440 & baby M.
- WEEK 13**
- D. Affirmative Action/Reverse Discrimination
Reading: Handout
Small group discussions

WEEK 14

V CULTURAL PLURALISM & EQUALITY

CHALLENGES FOR OUR FUTURE

A. CONCLUSIONS/REVIEW/SUGGESTIONS

Readings: Cyrus articles 133,135

Class survey

WEEK 15

REVIEW FOR FINAL/ORAL PRESENTATIONS

LAST DAY OF CLASS MAY 16

FINAL EXAM M/W: WED. MAY 24 0945-1200

T/TH: THU MAY 18 1215-1430