

Seminar in Education Law  
Hartfield  
Spring 2010

## **Syllabus**

### **Course Materials**

Olivas and Schneider, Education Law Stories (Foundation Press 2008). Each Student is required to read and bring a copy of any assigned case to each class meeting.

### **Description**

This course is a collaborative research seminar in which students will examine intensively selected issues in the area of education law. This course does not provide a survey of education law. Using the Education Law Stories text, we will consider the legal and human history and impact of some major cases in education law. Each student will undertake a research project and, using methodology similar to that used in the text, will produce a paper that explores the legal and human significance of a selected case. Each student will also make a class presentation based on the research project.

### **Requirements**

Full participation in the seminar is required. Students who have more than two absences will receive a failing grade. A student who is not prepared or is excessively tardy will be considered absent. As a collaborative seminar, this course requires participation in group activities in addition to the fulfillment of individual requirements. Full participation includes contributions to class discussions based on thoughtful completion of reading assignments, cooperation in the small group, and attentive listening to and critique of presentations made by others. Participation, which includes a presentation to the class, will count as 25% of the final grade. A major research paper is required, as discussed below.

### **Research Paper**

A major analytical research paper on an approved topic is required. The paper should analyze the history, legal significance and human impact of a case selected with the approval of the instructor. The minimum page length is twenty five pages, double spaced, 12 point font. Footnotes or endnotes are acceptable and must be in "Bluebook" or ALWD format for law review articles; citations in the text are not permitted. The final paper must include a table of contents and a bibliography, which do not count toward the minimum page requirement. An acceptable paper will demonstrate good research, writing, and organization and must include significant original analysis. A typed outline and a typed draft with

footnotes or endnotes must be submitted according to the deadlines indicated on the course schedule. Late submissions will result in points deducted from the final grade. Drafts must be submitted with the final paper. A student may satisfy the writing requirement if the research paper grade (not the final grade) is 2.20 or better.

As an alternative to the major research paper, a student who does not wish to satisfy the writing requirement may consult the instructor about the possibility of doing two shorter papers. The same requirements of submitting outlines and drafts noted above apply to this option.

### **Contact Information**

Office Hours: Mondays, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Office Location: Room 413

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### **Assignments**

**1/13: Text, Chapter 1; Tinker v. Des Moines, 393 U.S. 503 (1969)**

**1/20 Text, Chapter 8; Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U. S. 260 (1988).**

**1/27: No Class. Research possible paper topics.**

**2/3: Text, Chapter 2; Brown v. Bd., 347 U.S. 483 (1954). Present Paper Topic Ideas.**

**2/10: Brown II, 349 U.S. (1955).**

**2/17: Text, Chapter 3; San Antonio Ind. School Dist. v. Rodriguez, 411 U.S. 1 (1973).**

**2/24: Reading TBD. Submit Paper Topics and Outline; Group Meetings to Finalize Presentation Plans and Readings.**

**3/3 – 4/21: Reading TBD; Presentations Begin.**

**3/17: Drafts Due at the Beginning of Class (e-mail and hardcopy).**

**Final Papers Due by 5:00 p.m., May 13, 2010.**