PSC 336: Women and the Law
Spring 2016
Monday and Wednesday, 2:00-3:15 pm
Curry 241

Instructor & Office Hours:
Dr. Susan Johnson
Office: 323 Curry
Office Hours MW 12:30-1:30, and by appointment
Email: swjohnso@uncg.edu
PSC dept. phone: (336) 334-5989

Course Catalog Description:
In “Women and the Law,” students will study the jurisprudence of gender issues, with readings in legal theory and case law. Topics include domestic violence, sexual harassment, employment and pay equity, and marriage and family law.

Student Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the semester, students should be able to:
1. Explain, compare and contrast the equality and difference approaches to feminist jurisprudence;
2. Explain and assess the reasons why women are sometimes treated as a “special” category under the law;
3. Apply basic legal reasoning techniques to case law on specified “women’s issues” in the law;
4. Articulate and defend different legal positions regarding the status of men and women in the laws of marriage, parenthood, reproduction, and employment.

Required Texts:
2. Additional Readings on Canvas. These readings are REQUIRED. Please print and bring to class or plan to be able to electronically access in class.

Course Requirements:
Case briefs (best 5 of 6) (20 pts each) 100 pts total
Class participation 50 pts total
Unit One exam 100 pts total
Unit Two exam 100 pts total
Final paper (8-10 pages) 100 pts total

Grading Scale:
A+=439-450 pts  C+=349-357 pts  F=267 pts & below
A=417-438 pts  C=327-348 pts
A-=403-416 pts  C-=313-326 pts
B+=394-402 pts  D+=304-312 pts
B=372-393 pts  D=282-303 pts
B-=358-371 pts  D-=268-281 pts
Academic Honor Code:

I expect all students in this course to abide by both the letter and spirit of the university’s academic integrity policy. Violations of the university honor code will be prosecuted. The full text of the Academic Integrity Policy can be viewed at: http://www.uncg.edu/reg/Policy/HonorPolicy.html. Specifically pertinent to this course are the following rules:

1. “Cheating: Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.”
2. “Plagiarism: Intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise.”

Do NOT engage in either cheating or plagiarism. The penalties for both offenses range from the need to re-do assignments to expulsion from the University, depending upon the severity of the cheating or plagiarism offense.

If you have any questions regarding what constitutes either cheating or plagiarism, please see me immediately.

Case briefs:

You will be required to submit a one-page brief for five of the cases of your choice from the bold-faced cases as indicated on the schedule of topics. Case briefs will be due on the date listed on the schedule of topics. Late case briefs will not be accepted. It is up to the student to ensure that at least five case briefs are completed by semester’s end. If a student misses a case brief due to extenuating circumstances, then he or she will be asked to complete one of the upcoming case briefs. In other words, you should plan accordingly and not wait until the end of the semester to turn in the last five case briefs that are due. There are multiple opportunities to submit case briefs throughout the semester. DO NOT WAIT until the end and submit the last five (you may risk missing one due to extenuating circumstances). Detailed instructions for writing case briefs will be posted online and/or handed out in class.

Class Participation:

Students are expected to regularly attend class and participate in discussion. This means that students should be prepared each class period to be called upon to answer questions relevant to the reading. Quality is more important than quantity in my evaluation of class participation. Class participation may also occasionally consist of assigned discussion questions for the following class period or a pop quiz, at the instructor’s discretion. Class attendance will be included as part of the overall participation grade.

Classroom etiquette and use of electronic devices:

Please show respect for your instructor and classmates by being in class on time and by planning to remain in class for the entire class period. Turn off cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Use of laptop computers is limited to taking notes, not surfing the internet, chatting with others, working on assignments for other classes, or any other similar activities.

Students who use laptops to take notes must sit in the front two rows of the classroom.

Please be on time for class. Wandering in and out of class is distracting to everyone. Excessive tardiness or leaving class early will result in a deduction of the participation grade.
Missed exams
Students are expected to turn papers in on time and be present to take the exams at their scheduled times. Only in extraordinary circumstances will make-up opportunities exist. Students must notify me PRIOR to the missed exam with a valid excuse and must be prepared to provide credible evidence (such as a written doctor’s note) of the excuse. Excuses for missed exams after the fact will not be allowed, resulting in a failing grade for the missed exam. It is the instructor’s sole discretion to determine whether or not an excuse is acceptable.
Make-up exams will be scheduled for the same day, time and place for everyone. I will announce the make-up exam time in class. Students will be allowed to make-up only one (1) exam during the semester.

Assigned Readings/Case briefs:
Students are expected to complete the assigned reading before class and be prepared to discuss the assigned cases. Case briefs are due at the beginning of class on the date the case is assigned. I will only accept hard copies of case briefs (no emailed briefs). If you miss a brief, you may turn in the next one, but late briefs WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Cases that you may turn in a written brief for are indicated on the course schedule in BOLD-FACED type.

Schedule of Class Meetings and Readings:
Note: Minor adjustments to the reading schedule may be made depending on how quickly material is covered. Students are responsible for keeping up with any schedule adjustments that are announced in class or on Canvas.

Tentative schedule:

Jan. 11 - Introduction and Overview

Jan. 13 - ch. 1 - Romantic Paternalism (pp. 1-28) – RESERVE READING: Lochner, Muller, Adkins

Jan. 18: No classes, university closed

Jan. 20 – finish Romantic paternalism section
ch. 2 - Jury Duty (pp. 29-38) – Stradurer, Ballard, Duren, JEB
RESERVE READING: JEB v. Alabama

Jan. 25 - ch. 3 - Sex Discrimination (pp. 39-68)
RESERVE READING: Reed v. Reed, Frontiero v. Richardson, Craig v. Boren, Epstein & Knight – ch. 1 (behind the scenes with Craig v. Boren)

Jan. 27 – RESERVE READING: Korematsu excerpt; Ginsburg & Flagg selection; MacKinnon selection; U.S. v. Virginia

Feb. 1 – ch. 5 - Single-sex schools (pp. 85-95) – RESERVE READING: Hogan, Title IX athletics: Cohen v. Brown University; Grutter v. Bollinger

Feb. 3 - EPC analysis in marriage equality
RESERVE READING: excerpts from Loving v. VA; Obergefell v. Hodges
Feb. 8 - wrap-up and review

Feb. 10 - UNIT ONE TEST

Feb. 15 - ch. 6 – Different treatment of men and women (pp. 96-115)
RESERVE READING: Rostker; Feeney; Nguyen v. INS

Feb. 17 – Rape law
RESERVE READING: Origins & Reforms; select cases; statutory rape; Michael M.

Feb. 22 – Intimate partner violence
RESERVE READING: U.S. v. Dowd; Castle Rock v. Gonzales; VAWA, U.S. v. Morrison

Feb. 24 – Pornography
RESERVE READING: overview & Model Ordinance; R. v. Butler; American Booksellers v. Hudnut

Feb. 29 - ch. 10 - Reproductive rights (pp. 189-214)
RESERVE READING: Griswold v. CT, Roe v. Wade, Planned Parenthood v. Casey

Mar. 2 - – New Reproductive Technology
RESERVE READING: Baby M., Johnson v. Calvert, Davis v. Davis

Mar. 7 - 11 - SPRING BREAK

Mar. 14 - wrap-up and review

Mar. 16- UNIT TWO TEST

Mar. 21- Divorce and custody
RESERVE READING: No fault divorce, custody standards: Ex Parte Devine; Beck v. Beck

Mar. 23 - ch. 7 - Workplace discrimination (pp. 116-154)
RESERVE READING: Price Waterhouse; BFOQ excerpt; Dothard, SW Air

Mar. 28- Pay equity
RESERVE READING: pay equity studies; Equal Pay Act; Corning Glass Works v. Brennan; “the Mommy penalty”

Mar. 30 - ch. 8 - Sexual harassment (pp. 155-169) –
RESERVE READING: Meritor, Harris, Oncale
Apr. 4 – Sexual harassment in schools  
RESERVE READING: Gebser; Davis

Apr. 6 - ch. 9 - Pregnancy discrimination (pp. 170-188)  
RESERVE READING: Geduldig v. Aielo

Apr. 11 – RESERVE READING: Troupe, Carnegie, Brown; Family Medical Leave Act

Apr. 13 - ch. 11 – Leading the Way  
RESERVE READING: Third Wave feminism & emerging issues

Apr. 18 – Video: Iron Jawed Angels

Apr. 20 – Video: Iron Jawed Angels

Apr. 25 – Semester wrap-up

Apr. 27: Reading Day

Wed., May 4 - FINAL PAPERS DUE BY 12 PM, NOON (HARD COPIES ONLY – DO NOT EMAIL YOUR PAPERS TO ME)