PUBLIC INTEREST LAWYERING
University of Alabama School of Law
Spring 2014

Professor

Glory McLaughlin, Assistant Dean for Public Interest Law
Email: gmclaughlin@law.ua.edu
Phone: 205.348.8302
Office: 173D

Course Schedule

Class meets Mondays from 3:30 – 5:20 p.m. in Room 172

Course Objectives

- Examining the historic basis and context of public interest lawyering and social justice movements
- Exploring current issues in public interest law, including: definitions of public interest law; the financing of public interest work; the role of legal education; and professional pro bono requirements
- Providing a forum for students considering public interest careers to discuss their interests and perceived barriers with each other and attorneys currently practicing in public interest fields
- Selecting a public interest topic for further research and preparing a professional presentation and final paper on that topic

Course Requirements

- Reading
  - There is no textbook for this course. Most reading assignments will be posted on TWEN or emailed to you. You are responsible for checking your law school email and TWEN regularly.
- Participation
  - Attendance is mandatory, in accordance with the law school policy on class attendance. Except in cases of emergency, you should notify me at least 48 hours in advance if you will need to miss class.
  - You should come prepared to all class meetings by completing all reading and other assignments.
  - You will be expected to actively and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions and debates.
- Assignments
  - There will be short assignments and/or reflection-based essays assigned throughout the semester.
  - Paper and presentation: You will select a public interest topic and prepare a 10 minute presentation to the class, and a 10-15 page final paper on this topic.

Course Grading

This is a graded course. Each student will be evaluated according to the quality and level of class participation, and the quality of written assignments.

Course Schedule

1/13	Introduction to Public Interest Lawyering	* *Assignment #1 Due* *
1/20	MLK Holiday – No Class	
1/27	Defining Public Interest Law	
2/3	Civil Legal Services	
2/10	Public Interest Law in the Criminal Justice System	
2/17	Public Policy Advocacy	* *Assignment #2 Due* *
2/24	Impact Litigation	
3/3	Other Paths to Public Service	
3/10	Legal Education: The Role of Law Schools in Public Interest Law	* *Assignment #3 Due* *
3/17	Building a Career in Public Interest Law	* *Paper Topics Due* *
3/24	No Class – Spring Break	
3/31	No Class – Work on Presentations	* *Presentation Outlines Due* *
4/7	Class Presentations	
4/14	Class Presentations	
4/21	Class Presentations	
5/7		* *Final Papers Due* *