LAW 792 – Education Law Seminar, Fall 2014

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Course Description: This seminar will examine significant issues and problems that arise in the development, administration, and reform of educational systems. Our perspective will be the national K-12 landscape, although we will examine Alabama law and practice on some topics.

Course Objectives: This is a seminar course. In accordance with the law school rules, this seminar will "allow students to study specialized areas of the law in a highly-interactive small-class environment" and the final grade will be based primarily upon "a substantial writing assignment, adequate to demonstrate the ability of students to perform in-depth legal research, to engage in legal reasoning, and to express themselves in a clear, concise and persuasive manner." Students will not only have the opportunity, but will be required to, make an oral presentation, submit a draft, and "revise their written work based on comments from other students and from the professor."

Instructional Materials: Most of the materials will be those you gather in your research and writing. We will use some cases (available at the library or online and listed below), a magazine article (available for free), and one book. The book is widely available as a paperback (new or used), rental, or electronically:

Olivas & Schneider, Education Law Stories (Foundation Press)
Pub Date: Dec 4, 2007 | ISBN-10: 159941032X | ISBN-13: 978-1599410326 | Edition: 1

Course Evaluation: Grades will be based on the following expectations:

"A" - exceptional work, including advanced level research and analysis; development of the topic beyond fundamental concepts; and a well-written paper reflecting mastery of the subject matter
"B" - expected work, but lacking depth, clarity, quality or insight of superior work.
"C" - below expectations, reflecting poor effort, understanding, writing or execution
"D" or "F" – these grades are not expected, but are possible to achieve. Typically, a law student will have to miss deadlines and ignore expectations to perform this poorly.

Grade Components: I will follow the law school policy on grading seminars of 12 or fewer students. Missed deadlines will impact your grade. Your class grade will be comprised of the following:

Consistent preparation and participation - 10%
Outline – 10%
First draft – 10%
Presentation – 10%
Final paper – 60%

Attendance & Participation: Seminars require extensive preparation, active participation, and regular attendance. Students are expected to prepare carefully in advance of each class sessions. Active participation in class discussions, reflecting in depth analysis and thought regard the material, is a requirement of this course. Please note that preparation and participation will be a factor in determining your final grade. The School's attendance policy will be followed. Please note that absences are generally not allowed in a seminar. Please let me know (in advance, if possible) should an emergency or illness cause you to miss a session.

Paper Requirements:

Double-spaced
Normal margins
20-30 page minimum paper on subject approved by instructor.
Minimum of 10 appropriate sources cited in footnotes or endnotes.

Relevant Deadlines:

- Friday, Sept. 19 at Noon - Proposed topic emailed to classmates & instructor
- Friday at Noon prior to your presentation - First draft must be emailed to classmates & instructor. Note: classmates are required to read and be prepared to substantively discuss these drafts, following your presentation.
- Tuesday, December 16 at Noon - Final papers emailed (only to instructor).

Administrative Issues:

Conduct: All students are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. University policies, the Law School Honor Code, and other appropriate policies, will be followed in the event of misconduct. This is a seminar – be prepared and engaged in every class.

Disabilities: The Law School is committed to meeting the needs of students with physical, learning, and other disabilities, and provides appropriate accommodations and services tailored to each person's specific requirements. The Law School's administration and the University's Office of Disability Services work together to help individuals with disabilities achieve and maintain individual autonomy. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Associate Dean Arrington so that the individual's needs for support services can be evaluated and accommodated in a timely manner.

Diversity: The University is committed to providing an atmosphere of learning that is representative of a variety of perspectives. In this class, you will have the opportunity to express and experience cultural diversity. Individuality and creative expression are welcome. Take advantage of these opportunities in your own work, but also learn from the information and ideas shared by others.

Course Schedule
(subject to reasonable modification)

Date	Topic	Ed. Law Stories	Other Reading / Notes
08.20	Introduction		Hannah-Jones, *Segregation Now* (Atlantic, April 16, 2014)
08.27	Race, Law & the Limits of Court Supervision	Ch 2	*Milliken v Bradley*, 418 US 717 (1974)
09.03	School Finance	Ch 3	*Ex parte James,* 836 So.2d 813 (Ala. 2002)
09.10	Religion	Ch 11 & 12	
09.17	Student Rights	Ch 8 & 13	
09.24	Peer Review of Topics		Email 2 page topics/outlines to classmates by prior Friday at Noon (Sept. 19). Review & read your classmates' topics and be prepared to discuss your own and others.
10.01	Alabama issues of governance, liability, control, etc.		*Ex parte Montgomery Co BOE*, 88 So.3d 83 (Ala. 2012) Guest Speaker – Liz Swinford, Supt., Tuscaloosa Co BOE
10.08	Presentations 1&2		Presenters must submit papers to classmates no later than Noon of the Friday preceding your presentation. When presenting, assume all have read it. Classmates must read the draft and be prepared to discuss it, ask questions, and offer constructive criticism.
10.15	Presentations 3&4		See above for presentation instructions
10.22	School Board Attys. Presentation 5		Guest Speaker - James Tarbox, Esq., UA Law 2012 See above for presentation instructions
10.29	Presentations 6&7		See above for presentation instructions
11.05	Presentations 8&9		See above for presentation instructions
11.12	Presentations 10&11		See above for presentation instructions
11.19	Presentation 12 Conclusions		See above for presentation instructions

Presentation Sign-Up Sheet
Sign your name and include the email address at which you wish to receive drafts from classmates

1	10.08.14	
2	10.08.14	
3	10.15.14	
4	10.15.14	
5	10.22.14	
6	10.29.14	
7	10.29.14	
8	11.05.14	
9	11.05.14	
10	11.12.14	
11	11.12.14	
12	11.19.14	