GENDER AND THE LAW SEMINAR
Fall 2011

Professor Render
Wednesdays 3:30 – 5:20 pm
Text: Bartlett and Rhode, GENDER AND LAW (5th ed.).
Room 275
Office hours: Wednesdays 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, and by appointment

A. COURSE OBJECTIVES:
The purpose of this course is two-fold. Our first goal is to study the intersection of gender and law, both as a conceptual/justice issue and a doctrinal issue. Towards this end we will consider in some depth legal issues that arise in doctrinal areas as diverse as constitutional law, family law, criminal law, and employment law, but with a particular focus on fundamental questions about the intersection of equality and law. We will analyze the origins and meanings of many different conceptions of gender equality, as well as the function, ability, and obligation of American law to create equality among its citizenry.

A second purpose of the class is to provide students with an opportunity to write a paper on the topic of their choice (reasonably related to the topic of the seminar – but I am open to broad interpretations of theses that relate to gender and the law). I will work with you throughout the semester to plan, research, draft, and finalize your paper, such that at the end of the term you will have a final product that offers a unique contribution to the scholarly discussion of the issue you have selected.

B. PROPOSED CLASS AND READING SCHEDULE:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Pages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Aug. 24</td>
<td>Introduction to Gender Law, Formal Equality</td>
<td>pp. 1-34 (exclude note 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Sept. 7</td>
<td>Formal Equality, Cont.</td>
<td>pp. 82 -113</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Sept. 14</td>
<td>No Class – Outline Due</td>
<td>Outline Due by 5pm</td>
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<td>Sign up for meeting</td>
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<td>Wed. Sept. 21</td>
<td>No Class – Meet with me individually to discuss your outline.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Sept. 28</td>
<td>Substantive Equality</td>
<td>pp. 127-151</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Oct. 12</td>
<td>No Class – First Draft Due</td>
<td>First Draft Due by 5pm</td>
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<td>Sign up for meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Oct. 26</td>
<td>Nonsubordination</td>
<td>pp. 281-313 (exclude note 2)</td>
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C. NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF POSSIBLE TOPICS (for class discussion and/or papers)

Domestic violence and gender equality
Gender equity issues in the legal profession
Gender equity issues in higher education/legal education
Sexual orientation discrimination
Intersection of rights of sexual minorities and the rights of women
Gender-based violence (rape, assault)
Gender equity issues in the criminal justice system
Gender issues and the Eighth Amendment
Legal implications of gender-identity issues
Legal status of transgendered persons
Gender and family law (e.g. divorce, custody, child care)
The intersection of gender equality and religious freedom
Legal issues surrounding technology-assisted reproduction
The intersection of gender equality and free speech rights (pornography debate)
The intersection of gender and race in antidiscrimination law
The intersection of gender and human rights (or international human rights)
The intersection of gender and issues relating to religious freedom
The legal status of prostitution

D. EVALUATION / PAPERS

Course Requirements and Grading: Students must complete 2 drafts of a research paper (approximately 20 double-spaced pages) on the topic of their choice, approved by me in advance. Each student will also lead a class discussion based on his or her paper topic during one of our class sessions. Grading will be based on the following: 1st draft (20%); 2nd draft (40%); class presentation (25%); class attendance and participation (15%).
E. CLASS POLICIES

1. Contacting Me

Please do not hesitate to contact me (via phone, email, or simply drop by my office) if you have any questions or concerns related to our coursework (or any other law school matter) during the semester. I am pleased to be a resource for you, and while I particularly encourage you to take advantage of my posted office hours, I am happy to be available at other times by appointment.

2. Attendance and Participation

Active participation in class discussions is a requirement of this course. Students are expected to prepare the assigned material carefully in advance of each class session and to discuss the material in depth with their colleagues. Please note that class participation will be a factor in determining your final grade.

The School’s attendance policy will be followed. As the course meets only once a week, students are expected to attend each session. Please let me know (in advance, if possible) should an emergency or illness cause you to miss a session.

3. Accommodations

The Law School is committed to meeting the needs of students with disabilities. To request disability accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 8-4285. Once you have made initial arrangements with that office, please feel free to contact me (if you wish) to discuss accommodations.