

SPECIAL TOPICS IN APPLIED FEMINISM
(Law 888B/550)
SPRING 2018
Mondays 4:20-6:10 pm

Course Administrator: Professor Michele Gilman
Office: Angelos Law Center 424
Phone: 410-837-5656
Email: mgilman@ubalt.edu

Welcome to Special Topics in Applied Feminism! Please read the syllabus carefully as this is a unique course unlike any other in the law school curriculum.

Course Materials

Professors will individually assign readings for the week. Those readings will be available on TWEN a week before the scheduled course session. Readings are typically between 30-40 pages a week. It is the responsibility of each student to register for the TWEN course page.

Concept and Goals

This course provides students with an opportunity to apply feminist legal theory to a variety of legal topics. The course is team taught and is designed to introduce some of the core concepts of feminist legal theory and examine how that theory applies to areas of the law traditionally associated with feminism as well as to those areas in which the application of feminist legal theory might seem novel. The course enables students to develop critical thinking skills that will allow them to apply feminist legal theory to new legal problems, generating creative, theory-based solutions. All viewpoints are welcome in the course.

Attendance

You are expected to attend each class on time. Your instructor will pass around a sign-in sheet each class session. It is your responsibility to ensure that you sign this sheet, as it is the official record of your attendance. Per the University of Baltimore's policy, you may have no more than 2 absences during the semester. A student whose absences exceed this limit will not receive credit for the course. Absent students must still submit the weekly reflection paper in a timely manner.

Assignments and Grades

A. Class assignments

Given our goal of learning and teaching together, it is essential that everyone prepare for, attend, and participate in each session of the class. In a small group, everyone's participation is essential for a positive experience. In order

to be an active participant in the seminar, you will need to read the assigned material well in advance, think critically about the issues raised by the reading, and develop questions and comments for class participation. Faculty will generate and distribute discussion questions via TWEN a week prior to each class. Each student will produce a short reflective memo of 3-5 pages based on these questions and submit the memo by 4pm on the Friday prior to each class. Memos will be submitted to instructors through the assignment dropbox on the TWEN site.

B. Grades

This class will be graded pass/fail. A passing grade requires consistent attendance and participation and completion of all weekly reflection memos.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to do the following:

1. Explain the various strands of feminist legal theory
2. Apply feminist legal theories to substantive legal doctrines to understand whether and how law maintains oppressions based on gender
3. Discuss the potential and limitations of reforming law to address gender based oppressions

Course Expectations

American Bar Association Standards for Law Schools establish guidelines for the amount of work students should expect to complete for each credit earned. Students should expect approximately one hour of classroom instruction and two hours of out-of-class work each week for each credit earned in a class, or an equivalent amount of work for other academic activities, such as simulations, externships, clinical supervision, co-curricular activities, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

Computer:

Use of laptop computers for class related purposes will depend on the preferences of the Professor teaching the week's seminar class.

Class Cancellation

If the instructor must cancel a class, notices will be sent to students via email and posted on the classroom door. If there is inclement weather, students should visit the University of Baltimore web site or call the University's Snow Closing Line at (410) 837-4201. If the University is open, students should presume that classes are running on the normal schedule.

Academic Integrity

Students are obligated to refrain from acts that they know or, under the circumstances, have reason to know will impair the academic integrity of the University and/or School of Law. Violations of academic integrity include, but are

not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, misuse of materials, inappropriate communication about exams, use of unauthorized materials and technology, misrepresentation of any academic matter, including attendance, and impeding the Honor Code process. The School of Law Honor Code and information about the process is available at

http://law.ubalt.edu/academics/policiesandprocedures/honor_code/.

Title IX Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination Policy

The University of Baltimore states that its Sexual Misconduct and Nondiscrimination policy is compliant with Federal laws prohibiting discrimination. Title IX requires that faculty, student employees and staff members report to the university any known, learned or rumored incidents of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking on the basis of sex, dating/intimate partner violence or sexual exploitation and/or related experiences or incidents. Policies and procedures related to Title IX and UB's nondiscrimination policies can be found at: <http://www.ubalt.edu/titleix>.

Disability Policy

If you are a student with a documented disability who requires an academic accommodation, please contact Leslie Metzger, Director of Student Services, at 410-837-5623 or lmetzger@ubalt.edu.

Schedule of Class Sessions

Week 1, January 22: Introduction to Feminist Legal Theory, Professors Margaret Johnson and Michele Gilman

Week 2, January 29: Male Violence and the Problem of Innocence, Professor Colin Starger

Week 3, February 5: Sports Law, Professor Dionne Koller

Week 4, February 12: International Law, Professor Nienke Grossman

Week 5, February 19: Juvenile Justice, Professor Odeana Neal

Week 6, February 26: Immigration Law, Professor Elizabeth Keyes

Week 7, March 5: Human Trafficking, Professor Jessica Emerson

Week 8, March 12: Low-Income Fathers, Professor Dan Hatcher

March 19: No class (Spring Break)

Week 9, March 26: Financial Services, Professor Cassandra Havard

Week 10, April 2: Law and Economics, Professor Barbara White

Week 11, April 9: Poverty Law, Professor Michele Gilman

Week 12, April 16: Mediation, Professor Rob Rubinson

Week 13, April 23: Health Law, Professor Natalie Ram

Week 14, April 30: Sexual Harassment, Professor Margaret Johnson