

Course Syllabus

GOVT 3353 Law and Gender
Spring 2010
T-R 4:00PM - 5:15PM (SOM 2.722)

Professor Linda Camp Keith
Office: Green 3.232
Email: linda.keith@utdallas.edu
Phone: 972-883-6481
Office Hours: T and R 2:30-3:30 and W 6 - 7 pm
Class calendar and assignments posted on WebCT.

Course Description

This course examines how U.S. laws and legal institutions reflect and reproduce cultural notions of gender and sexuality. Focuses on how legal equality and sex discrimination have been defined and challenged in the United States. Topics include reproductive and sexuality issues, marriage and divorce, pornography, workplace regulations, and, generally, how gender and sexuality interact in legal decision making.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

1. To gain an understanding of the development of U.S. constitutional law in the area of gender and sexuality.
 2. To develop an understanding of the theories of gender and sexuality and judicial decision-making and to be able to apply those theories to development of constitutional law in this area of civil liberties law.
-

Required Textbooks and Materials

Eskridge and Hunter
Sexuality, Gender and the Law
Foundation Press 2006 1-58778-804-7 Paperback

2009 Supplement to the above book—I do not have this information yet but the bookstore will have it.

Additional Supreme Court cases that you will access through: Lexis, findlaw.com or oyez.org.

Your textbook gives other sites as well.

Most of these sites have case syllabi which summarize nicely the case somewhat similar to legal brief.

Grading Policy

Attendance and Participation (5%)
2 Supreme Court Simulations (20% total-10% each)
Midterm (35%) (Given in two parts)
Final (40%)

A+ = 98-100%	A = 94-97%
A- = 90-93%	B+ = 88-89%
B = 84-87%	B- = 80-83%
C+ = 78-79%	C = 74-77%
C- = 70-73%	D+ = 68-69%
D = 64-67%	D- = 60-63%
F = Below 60%	

Course & Instructor Policies

TEACHING METHODS: This course will be a survey of the key constitutional decisions regarding gender and sexuality (this is not a women's rights course). I will use a combination of lecture and discussion methods supplemented with engaged learning activities, including two Supreme Court simulations. The textbook reading will serve background reading for the theoretical debates and substantive reading of the Supreme Court's decisions. I will typically lecture on additional cases on about a 3 to 1 ratio (lecture/text cases) so it is extremely important that you attend class.

NOTE ON THE READING: Typically students will be assigned approximately 60 to 70 pages of reading per week, which is average for upper level classes. But you should be prepared for the reading to be somewhat dense. Typically in casebooks undergraduate students are expected to read the cases and pull out the key arguments for themselves. More student-friendly books such as the one assigned here, will also ask you some probing questions to help you think critically about what the Court is saying. Additionally, the assigned book also sets up theoretical debates for you to explore as well. This is time-consuming reading. Plan ahead!

MAKE-UP EXAMS: Make-up exams will be arranged ONLY for students with a valid excuse provided that the student contacts the professor prior to the exam time and for which the student provides appropriate documentation. Students traveling on university-related activities on the day of the exam or students who must miss an exam due to a religious holiday must arrange to take the exam prior to the scheduled date not afterwards.

ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend class regularly and role will be taken. Students are expected to come to class prepared and to participate constructively in class discussion and group activities.

EXTRA ASSIGNMENTS: No extra credit or special assignments will be offered.

ELEARNING: Course materials will be posted on ELEARNING which I will likely forget and continue to call WebCt! This material will include the class calendar, announcements, slide presentations (at the end of each unit), and other study materials. I will leave the discussion room function open for students' use, but I typically do not participate in the room.

IMPORTANT: Please do not send email to me from ELEARNING as I will not receive it. Per university policy please use your GALAXY account only for all email. Our UTD email filters out g-mail and so forth and I never see them.

TECHNOLOGY REMINDER: Cell phones must be turned off during classes and you may not text message during classes. Laptops are to be used appropriately in class—for taking notes and accessing websites related to class, NOT for instant messaging, browsing YouTube and so forth. Students violating this policy will be asked to leave class. A second violation will result in a grade-point drop for your course grade (the equivalent of a zero in your entire participation grade). Please be courteous to your professor and fellow classmates.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

A calendar will be kept on ELEARNING with the daily readings and assignments. The dates are tentative but should allow you time to read ahead if you so chose. It is your responsibility to check ELEARNING for class announcements and assignment dates.

EXAMS: Exams will mostly be essay format. Exams will be tailored to fit the content of the course appropriately. I will give the students a list of possible answer topics or full essays for which they should prepare. Typically, I will then narrow the selection down to a smaller set of options from which students will choose the essay(s) on which to actually write. Because of time limitations I may choose to give half of the midterm a couple of weeks prior to the second half of the midterm, in order to allow students to adopt their study and writing strategies, if necessary. The final will be the traditional two-hour exam.

TWO SUPREME COURT SIMULATIONS: Students will participate in two in-class simulations which will require writing a short preparatory document, participating in the simulation, and participating in the writing of a final opinion. Simulation One will be a hypothetical case dealing with same-sex marriage and Simulation Two will deal with a hypothetical case relating to the policy of Don't Ask/Don't Tell.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Students will receive a grade based in part on the percentage of classes they attend and in part the level of their participation in the class discussion and in group discussions or activities and perhaps an occasional unannounced quiz.

TOPICS: A tentative list of topics is included below; we are not likely to be able to cover all of these topics fully. Specific chapters, pages, and cases will appear on the class calendar on the main-page. I am using this calendar instead of the ELEARNING calendar because it provides a single look of several weeks at once. Also occasionally on the calendar there will be citations of assigned cases not covered in the book. Those cases you will need to read on your own.

UNIT ONE:

Right to Privacy: Contraception (Ch.2)

Right to Privacy: Abortion (Ch. 2)

Right to Sexual Privacy (Ch. 2 and Ch. 4)

UNIT TWO:

Equality Challenges to Sex and Sexuality Discrimination (Ch. 3)

Military Exclusions (a selection of issues and cases from Ch. 7)

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication

with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688

Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.