

SCHOOL LAW: EDAP 7040

University of Georgia, Fall 2009
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Course Description: Examines legal principles applicable to educational institutions, including federal and state constitutional provisions, legislation, administrative regulations, and case law.¹

Course Objectives: In this course students will:

- 1) Study the U.S. governance system and the role of the courts in education.
- 2) Explore relevant theories of government, politics, and jurisprudential ideals.
- 3) Study the role of law in the establishment and implementation of public policy governing educational institutions.
- 4) Review applicable federal and state constitutional provisions.
- 5) Review court decisions, statutory law, and administrative regulations concerning educational institutions, students, teachers, etc.
- 6) Debate and reflect on legal principles and their application in educational institutions.
- 7) Engage in legal research, and present and debate their findings on legal research problems related to educational institutions.

Course Outline: Below is an outline of topics covered:

- 1) Course introduction and overview.
- 2) Governance structures and the legal system.
- 3) School funding litigation: equity and politics.
- 4) Compulsory school attendance.
- 5) Church and State relations.
- 6) Curriculum censorship.
- 7) Student freedom of expression.
- 8) Student discipline and due process.

¹ All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Please see <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/index.htm> for the UGA policy on Academic Honesty. See also <http://www.gradsch.uga.edu/> and <http://www.coe.uga.edu/leap/adminpolicy/about/index.html> for other applicable rules and policies. The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

- 9) Corporal punishment.
- 10) Mandatory reporting statutes for abuse and neglect.
- 11) School searches.
- 12) Special education law.
- 13) Contracts.
- 14) Teacher freedom of expression.
- 15) Teachers' private lives.
- 16) Employment discrimination.
- 17) School desegregation.
- 18) Torts.
- 19) Professional responsibility and ethics.
- 20) Other legal issues selected by students.

Assigned Readings:

- 1) Michael La Morte, School Law: Cases and Concepts.
- 2) The Federal Constitution, Georgia educational statutes and other supplemental readings.

Course requirements and evaluation:

- 1) Relevant education law articles chosen by students (10%).
- 2) Active participation in discussions (20%).
- 3) Individualized education law project (20%).
- 4) Final exam (50%).