

Women and the Law Program

Spring 2010 Courses in Gender and Law

619-001 **Comparative Family Law** **Rebouché**

This course will introduce students to methods in the study of comparative family law and explore topics that are the discipline's common focus (the regulation of marriage and reproductive decision-making, for example). It will also examine the changing legal relationship between families, the market, and the state in light of key comparativist dilemmas, such as the effect of globalization and the role of human rights law; how families' contribution to the market is valued; and the influence of West/East and other dichotomies. To a lesser extent, the course will address the treatment of family law in international law and by multinational courts.

691-001 **Sex- Based Discrimination** **Abrams**

This course is a foundational gender and law course. It provides a comprehensive survey and analysis of the constitutional and statutory mechanisms used to address sex-based discrimination and considers the political, economic, social, and historical factors relevant to the existence of and the legal responses to sex-based discrimination in the U.S. The course will survey the major pieces of federal legislation that regulate discrimination on the basis of sex, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978, The Equal Pay Act of 1963, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The course will also consider a sampling of issues impacting sexual equality within the family structure, including family planning, reproductive rights, and same-sex marriage. The primary components of the course grade are an advocacy-oriented position paper, presentation of the position paper in a simulated congressional hearing, and class participation in both general discussion and specific in-class exercises.

720A-001 **Family Law: Theory and Policy** **Lockie**

This two credit upper-level course focuses on selected topics in family law from both theoretical and policy perspectives, with an emphasis on race, class, and sexual orientation. The course will examine family law issues that have a constitutional or federal law dimension. Topics include legal responses to changing family structures, alternative methods of reproduction, the legacy of slavery, state regulation of intimate human relationships, interstate child custody and support, family leave, and reproductive rights. The course will examine the policies behind current guiding principles of family law with an emphasis on feminist theory. The seminar will have a take-home final exam and does not fulfill the upper-level writing requirement. Family Law is not a prerequisite for this course.

725-001 **Gender, Cultural Difference & Int'l Human Rights** **SáCouto**

Gender, Cultural Difference and International Human Rights is a two-credit, elective seminar. There are no prerequisites. The primary purpose of this course is to explore issues in international human rights and humanitarian law raised by cultural and religious practices that affect women. The course will examine the underlying assumptions, principles and approaches of major human rights and humanitarian law instruments, with a particular emphasis on the roles of gender and culture in specific contexts, such as marriage and divorce, reproductive rights, health (HIV/AIDS), trafficking, and abuses against women committed in the context of mass violence or armed conflict.

795-010 **Reproductive Rights** **Bridgewater**

This course is a socio-legal survey of the regulation and protection of reproductive decision-making and practices in America from the colonial era to the present.

827-001 Sexuality and the Law**Polikoff**

This seminar focuses on the government's regulation of sexuality, including sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. The course materials will cover constitutional law (including the doctrines of privacy, equal protection, freedom of expression and freedom of association) and statutory law (including employment law and family law). Topics to be covered may include the right to sexual privacy; theories of sexuality; military policies that discriminate based on sex and sexual orientation; government censorship of sexually explicit art; discrimination by private entities, primarily employers, on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression; and state control of family relationships, including marriage, custody and adoption. The course will also explore the intersection of race, gender, and sexual orientation.

889-001 Labor and Employment: Work, Family & Equality**Kovacic-Fleischer**

This seminar reviews the restrictions on employees' choice of time allocation and the problems those restrictions cause. It also looks at the statutes from the point of view of determining whether any parts of the statutes could be adapted to regulate the workplace to allow employees more time with their families. Defenses and the employers points of view will be considered. A variety of approaches, from leaves to childcare, and a variety of funding sources, from employers to governments, will be considered. Students will look at nonlegislative solutions and will consider how restraints on time allocation have a disproportionate effect on women's pay and success and on men's ability to participate in family life.

Courses Including Gender Component

636-001	Family Law	Polikoff
656-001	Asylum & Refugee Law	McConnell
668-001	Employment Discrimination	Carle
725-002	Regional Approaches to Human Rights	Mendez
993-001	Adoption Law, Policy and Practice	Maskew
961-001	Property Interests in Persons	Bridgewater

Faculty Integrating a Gender Perspective

606-001	U.S. Legal History II	May
659-001	Intro to European Union Law	Nicola
719-001	Current Trends in American Health Policy	Parver
781-001	Local Government Law	Jabaily
813-001	Comparative Environmental Law	Hunter
819-001	Law and Literature	Phelps
861-001	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Jain

* Not all courses may be applied towards LL.M. in International Legal Studies, Specialization in Gender and International Law or the LL.M. in Law & Government, Specialization in Gender and Law. Please check with your program for qualifying courses.

Compiled by the Women and the Law Program
 Visit us at www.wcl.american.edu/gender/wlp
Please consult the Office of the Registrar for updates.