

GENDER, LAW, AND POLITICS

POLS 4750 – Fall 2020 Tues/Thurs 12:45pm – 2pm

Susan B. Haire, Ph.D

Office hours: Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30 pm on zoom; Wednesday, 10-11am on zoom; and/or by appointment: cmshaire@uga.edu

Over the last several decades, judges have grappled with disputes that range from questions of contractual obligations by surrogate mothers to allegations of unequal athletic programs in colleges and universities. In this respect, courts play an important policy making role as they define the legal parameters for marriage and divorce, equal employment opportunities, domestic violence, reproductive freedom, child custody, economic and educational equity. To understand the relationship between law and gender, this course will draw on case law, doctrinal analyses, and social science scholarship. By the end of this course, students will be familiar with legal principles in these areas of law while developing their ability to analyze and communicate orally and in writing.

Text

There is one required text:

Goldstein, L.F., J. A. Baer, C.W. Daum, T.S. Fine. *The Constitutional and Legal Rights of Women*, 4th edition, West Academic Publishing.

All additionally assigned readings and videos will be available through GALILEO/Westlaw, publicly accessible web sites or uploaded to ELC.

Organization of Class

This class will be taught using a “hy-flex” model that blends face-to-face (masked) with online instruction. To ensure social distancing, I will assign no more than one-fourth of the class to be present physically in our classroom for each class meeting. The remaining three-fourths of the class will be watching/participating synchronously online. These roles will rotate with each session. During our first class, we will discuss a plan in the event that our classroom technology fails for a particular class. The bottom line is that this is not a “self-paced” online course. For now, you need to make sure that you have access to a computer/tablet (where you can type messages in response to in-class prompts/exercises, take notes, and review your case briefs), an audio connection, (preferably one with an audio/video connection) during this time period. Class begins at 12:45pm and ends at 2pm. I will have more information on what you can expect and when you are expected to come to campus for class as we get closer to the start of the semester. Please check your email and announcements on ELC.

If you have an underlying medical condition or, for any reason, believe that you are at a high risk of developing a serious case of COVID-19, you may request an accommodation through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at drc@uga.edu or 706-542-8719: https://drc.uga.edu/content_page/student-accommodation-guidelines

Of course, if you are sick (with any illness), or believe that you are contagious, you must stay home and participate online (unless symptoms prevent you from doing so).

This class is divided into topical modules with each covering 1-2 weeks of materials. Students are expected to be prepared prior to class by reading and reviewing assigned materials, as noted on ELC. During the time period set aside for class, we will be focused on discussions and exercises that build on what you have read (or watched) prior to class. Students should check email accounts regularly (and on ELC) for messages and updates. I will provide specifics on assignments, scheduling, and due dates on ELC. Below is a general topical outline for the semester:

1. Foundations – overview of judicial process, stare decisis, and how to write a case brief
2. Suffrage and voting
3. Gender and Constitution: Equal Protection Clause
4. In the workplace, part I: Equal Pay Act, Title VII
5. In the workplace, part II: sexual harassment, pregnancy, affirmative action
6. Reproductive freedom

Midterm assessment– October 8-13th

7. Family law: marriage, divorce, child custody, parental rights
8. Education: single-sex schools, Title IX
9. Crime: domestic violence, sexual assault, VAWA, campus crime, human trafficking
10. Supreme Court decision making
11. Supreme Court simulations –
Instruction for this module will be online (after Thanksgiving and includes the final exam period)

Requirements

Your grade in this class will be weighted as follows:

Participation (20%). All students are expected to participate. Participation will come in many forms: responses to queries during class, collaborative note taking, small group exercises surrounding hypothetical cases, and individual presentations of case briefs. I will not make any distinction between participating online and participating when physically present in the classroom. I expect that all contributions to class discussion, whether in a large or small group, will be respectful.

Mid-term assessment (20%). For this summative assessment, your exam will require writing a series of analytical essays in response to prompts.

Quizzes (25%)

There will be five quizzes that consist of short answer questions focused on readings, including cases, assigned for that class date.

Simulation – final (35%). Each simulation will involve the consideration of a hypothetical case that requires the resolution of a legal issue relevant to our course. Students will play one of the following roles: a specific justice of an appellate court, an attorney who represents an organized interest filing a “friend of the court” brief, or an attorney representing a direct party in the case.

Justices: Justices are expected to prepare for their role by analyzing the past voting behavior and opinion writing of their assigned judge/justice. You are to vote, debate, and write in the simulation as you believe the jurist would do if actually confronted with a real case similar to the hypothetical dispute. You will turn in an essay (approximately 8- 10 pages) that includes: your justice’s professional background as it relates to the case, an analysis of the justice’s previous positions on similar issues, and an analysis of the justice’s present stance on the hypothetical case before the court. Although the writings of your justice will guide your paper, the essay also will be expected to demonstrate an ability to develop an appropriate analytical framework for that issue. In addition, justices will participate in oral argument and conference deliberations.

Attorneys: Attorneys for each side or advocating for an interest group will be paired to work as a team. As a team, you will write an appellate brief that details the arguments presented on behalf of your client. I will provide “sample” appellate briefs as a guide and meet with attorneys to discuss any questions on legal research and writing. An attorney’s grade will rest primarily on the written brief; however, attorneys also will participate in oral argument before the Court. Information on the simulations, including assignments, will be distributed in late October.

Academic honesty. All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. All academic work for this course must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe, and ignorance is not an acceptable defense.

If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please register with the Disability Resource Center at drc@uga.edu or 706-542-8719.

Health and safety

Everyone has a critical role to play as we work together to protect the health and safety of every member of the Bulldog Nation.

These are stressful times; the University has a number of mental health and wellness resources available for students to access:

- If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.
- UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>).

- If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.
- Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

Academic calendar and schedule. All in-person instruction will end November 24 (start of Thanksgiving Break). All remaining instruction, and final exams, will be delivered online. The Daily Class Schedule has been adjusted to add more time between classes. (Our class begins, whether attending in person or on line, at 12:45 pm and ends at 2pm.)

Face coverings. Effective July 15, 2020, the University of Georgia—along with all University System of Georgia (USG) institutions—requires all faculty, staff, students and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings, like Baldwin Hall, where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use is in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the class. Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons. Students seeking an accommodation related to face coverings should contact Disability Services at <https://drc.uga.edu/>.

Keep a safe distance. In all public spaces in Baldwin Hall (including stairwells, halls, offices, bathrooms, classrooms, and labs), please maintain six feet between you and others. The seating capacity in your classroom has been modified to allow for social distancing. Only sit in designated, marked seats. In all public spaces, including classrooms, you should not remove signage or re-arrange furniture, even if it appears that furniture is not being used. In moving through Baldwin Hall please keep right where possible, follow the signs and maintain your social distance.

Don't congregate. If you want to spend some time chatting with someone, please take it outside or online. We are also requesting that you enter and exit Baldwin without delay, staying outside of the building until 5 minutes before class begins and then leaving once your class is finished.

Keep it clean. Cleaning and disinfecting public spaces are important to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19, but classrooms are only being cleaned once-per-day. On your way into your classroom take a wipe from the sanitation bucket-on-a-stick to wipe down all high-touch surfaces associated with your seat. You can help further slow the spread of the virus by frequently washing your hands and using hand sanitizer.

Your health. If you have an underlying medical condition or, for any reason, believe that you are at a high risk of developing a serious case of COVID-19, you may request an accommodation through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at drc@uga.edu or 706-542-8719: https://drc.uga.edu/content_page/student-accommodation-guidelines

Other reminders and resources related to coronavirus:

DawgCheck:

Please perform a quick symptom check each weekday on DawgCheck—on the UGA app or website—whether you feel sick or not. It will help health providers monitor the health situation on campus: <https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/>

What do I do if I have symptoms?

Students showing symptoms should self-isolate and schedule an appointment with the University Health Center by calling 706-542-1162 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.). Please DO NOT walk-in. For emergencies and after-hours care, see <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>.

What do I do if I am notified that I have been exposed?

Students who learn they have been directly exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms should self-quarantine for 14 days consistent with Department of Public Health (DPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Please correspond with your instructor via email, with a cc: to Student Care & Outreach at sco@uga.edu, to coordinate continuing your coursework while self-quarantined. If you develop symptoms, you should contact the University Health Center to make an appointment to be tested. You should continue to monitor your symptoms daily on DawgCheck.

How do I get a test?

Students who are demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19 should call the University Health Center. UHC is offering testing by appointment for students; appointments may be booked by calling 706-542-1162.

UGA will also be recruiting asymptomatic students to participate in surveillance tests. Students living in residence halls, Greek housing and off-campus apartment complexes are encouraged to participate.

What do I do if I test positive?

Any student with a positive COVID-19 test is required to report the test in DawgCheck and should self-isolate immediately. Students should not attend classes in-person until the isolation period is completed. Once you report the positive test through DawgCheck, UGA Student Care and Outreach will follow up with you.

Check your email regularly so you don't miss important information, and also check the University [COVID-19 website](#) for updates and resources. This web site also includes links from student affairs with helpful, up-to-date messages for students and parents.

Schedule through September 1st; this is tentative, subject to change. You should consult ELC for information on readings and preparation for Modules 1 and 2.

Dates when you can come to campus for in-class POLS 4750 instruction (otherwise, you attend on zoom):

August 20th – last name: A,B, or C;

August 25th – last name: D, E, G, H, J, Ka,

August 27th - last name: Ke through Ku, L, M, N, O, P

September 1st – last name: R, R-Q, S, T,V,W

Susan Haire is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: My Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94326137457>

Meeting ID: 943 2613 7457