DISABILITY LAW SEMINAR (SPRING 2016)  PROF. WAGSTAFF

SYLLABUS

Description: This course surveys federal law as it relates to people with disabilities. Primary focus is on discrimination in employment, education, government services, public accommodations run by private entities, and housing. A majority of the class will focus on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Required Text: MARK C. WEBER, UNDERSTANDING DISABILITY LAW, SECOND EDITION (Lexis Nexis 2012). Course Packet (available from Copy Center). Be certain to sign up on TWEN to receive announcements, updates, links, and other materials.

Course Assignments & Grading: Your grade will be based on (1) a research paper (50% of final grade); (2) class participation (35% of final grade); and (3) class assignments (15% of final grade). There will be assigned reading each week. The reading assignments are meant to be manageable and are designed to stimulate discussion. Check on TWEN for an updated syllabus with reading assignments toward the beginning of the semester.

Class Participation: Class participation is mandatory. Every week a list of discussion questions will be sent out to the class. Please come prepared to discuss the reading material and the discussion questions each week. The best seminar classes are the ones where there is lively discussion and debate. I encourage everyone to share their opinions and points of view, but remind you to do so in a polite and professional manner, especially when discussing sensitive topics such as disabilities.

Research Paper: Students will complete a research paper on a disability law issue of their choice. The length of the research paper must be between 15-20 pages. The paper should be double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides, and numbered at the bottom of the page. Please use Times New Roman Font #12 on both the body of the paper and your footnotes. Please also use proper citation, syntax, and spelling. Please properly attribute all directly quoted and paraphrased material in your paper.

Assignment #1: A proposed topic and outline for your research paper is due on February 24. I will review and discuss your proposed topic with you the following week at a mutually convenient time. An example topic and outline will be posted on TWEN.

Assignment #2: If you could make one regulatory change to the ADA, what would it be and why? Regulations: Title I (Employment): 29 C.F.R. Pt. 1630; Title II (State and local governments): 28 C.F.R. Pt. 35; Title III (Public Accommodations): 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36.

Assignment #3: A rough draft of your research paper is due on April 6. This rough draft will be peer reviewed by one of your classmates. The rough draft and your feedback on your peer’s paper are all part of the same assignment.

Assignment #4: Presentation of your research paper will be given during the last day class on April 20.

Laptops and Other Electronic Devices: Be sure that all cellphones and smartphones are on silent and that computers are used only for taking notes. Please note that lecture materials will be posted after each class, so you do not need to worry about copying down information on the slides.

TWEN: I will post class materials, articles, and websites of interest on TWEN. I encourage you to use these resources throughout the course, and especially for choosing a paper topic.
Office Hours: I do not hold regular office hours, but am available by appointment. I answer all emails within 24 hours. Email is my preferred method of communication outside the classroom, but I am available to speak to students via telephone upon request. My email address is: brandy.wagstaff@gmail.com.

Assignment Schedule: The following assignments may change as the semester progresses. I will notify you of any changes in advance. Be sure to refer to the selected statutes as applicable for each assignment.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 13</td>
<td>Introduction (Video Presentation) Overview of ADA, Section 504 &amp; IDEA</td>
<td>-Textbook pp. 1-10 (Chapter 1)</td>
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<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>Defining Disability</td>
<td>-Textbook pp. 13-42 (Chapter 2)</td>
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<td>-Course Packet TBD</td>
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<td>Jan. 27</td>
<td>Employment Discrimination (Guest Lecturer)</td>
<td>-Textbook pp. 44-75 (Chapter 3)</td>
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<td>-Course Packet TBD</td>
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<td>Feb. 3</td>
<td>Employment Discrimination (Guest Lecturer)</td>
<td>-Textbook pp. 75-96 (Chapter 3 cont’d)</td>
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<td>-Course Packet TBD</td>
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<td>Feb. 10</td>
<td>Education &amp; the Individuals with Disabilities Act</td>
<td>-Textbook pp. 97-118 (Chapter 4)</td>
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<td>-Course Packet TBD</td>
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<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td>Education &amp; the ADA and Rehabilitation Act (Guest Lecturer)</td>
<td>-Textbook pp. 119-130 (Chapter 4 cont’d)</td>
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<td>-Course Packet TBD</td>
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<td>Feb. 24</td>
<td>Public Accommodations Discrimination</td>
<td>-Textbook pp. 133-158 (Chapter 5)</td>
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<td>-Paper Topic and Outline Due</td>
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<td>(Assignment #1)</td>
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<td>March 2</td>
<td>Public Accommodations Discrimination</td>
<td>-Course Packet TBD</td>
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<td>March 9</td>
<td>NO CLASS (Spring Break)</td>
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<td>March 16</td>
<td>Discrimination in Government Services and Federally Funded Programs</td>
<td>-Textbook pp. 159-180 (Chapter 6)</td>
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<td>-Course Packet TBD</td>
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<td>-Assignment #2 Due</td>
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<td>March 23</td>
<td>Discrimination in Government Services and Federally Funded Programs</td>
<td>-Textbook pp. 181-183</td>
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<td>-Course Packet TBD</td>
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<td>March 30</td>
<td>Discrimination in Government Services and Federally Funded Programs</td>
<td>-Course Packet TBD</td>
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<td>April 6</td>
<td>Housing and Transportation Discrimination</td>
<td>-Textbook pp. 187-209</td>
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<td>-Course Packet TBD</td>
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<td>-Rough Draft for Peer Review Due</td>
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<td>(Assignment #3)</td>
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<td>April 13</td>
<td>Telecommunications &amp; Additional Discrimination Topics</td>
<td>-Textbook pp. 210-219</td>
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<td>-Course Packet TBD</td>
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<td>April 20</td>
<td>Wrap-up &amp; Presentations</td>
<td>-In-Class Presentation on Paper</td>
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<td>May 9</td>
<td>Last Day of Exams</td>
<td>-Final Paper Due</td>
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