ADGR 770501, LAW AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
Fall, 2014

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Schedule: Tues, 6:30–9:00, Sept 1–Dec 15
Room: Devlin 216

Boston College Mission Statement

Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description

AD 70501 Law and Social Responsibility
Laws define and reinforce personal and professional relationships. Course explores how laws influence society and how society influences the law. Considers the broad social and professional contexts connecting individuals, families and organizations. Presents an overview of the structure of the Federal and Massachusetts Courts as well as the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Examines civil laws applicable to the family, including the legal aspects of marriage, child custody, adoption, divorce and liability for conduct. Addresses issues of ethics, equality and privacy.
Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course:

1. Students will have developed a clearer understanding of the legal system in America and the structure of the United States and Massachusetts Courts Systems.

2. Students will understand the power of the Court and the role of the Judiciary in the implementation and application of laws and the impact of court decisions on individuals, groups, and society.

3. Students will gain a broader understanding of the long-term effects and potential consequences of court decisions and their influence on society and how changes in society can influence the court’s interpretation of the law.

4. Students will be able to identify, define, and explain common legal terms and concepts on an exam.

5. Students will be able to identify and analyze legal issues in the assigned reading as evidenced by participation in class discussions.

6. Students will demonstrate critical and rational thinking skills by formulating and defending opinions on legal issues with sound argument and legal reasoning during class and/or online discussions and written assignments.

7. Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate, both orally and in writing, by their participation in class and/or online discussions and by submission of a well structured, reasoned and supported position paper.

Grading

Attendance, class participation, completion of a writing assignment, and performance on the midterm examination will be considered for purposes of evaluating a student and assigning a grade.

1. Attendance 25%
2. Class Participation 25%
3. Midterm Exam 25%
4. Writing Assignment 25%

Attendance

Regular attendance and active participation is required and necessary to achieving success in this course. The majority of examination questions come directly from class lectures and discussions. Students are expected to arrive at class on time and remain throughout the class period. Students with valid excuses for absences are responsible for providing advance notice and appropriate documentation of the reason for the absence. Should it become imperative that a student misses a class, the student shall contact the professor as soon as possible. It is incumbent upon the student to make arrangements to obtain any assignments, handouts, or other necessary course materials from a classmate. Three or more absences for any reason may result in a failing grade for the course.
**Participation**

Since twenty-five percent of the course grade is determined by participation, it is strongly suggested that students attend all classes. If students are not present, they are not participating and their grades will be impacted. Active participation is expected during class discussion. Some portions of this course may demand that students participate in small group discussions and activities. Some students may be uncomfortable speaking in class. Students who find it difficult to speak in class should make an appointment with the professor to discuss approaches to overcoming this issue. On occasion, out-of-class exercises or tasks will be assigned prior to an upcoming class in order to enhance student learning and class participation. There will be three discussion board exercises and two short assignments provided to students on Canvas that will count toward the class participation grade. These assignments are intended to enhance critical thinking abilities. Students are required to respond to the questions with typed entries that will be posted on the course site unless otherwise specified.

**Midterm Exam**

Students will be given a Midterm Exam. It will cover course readings, lectures, and other assigned materials and exercises. It is an in-class, closed book, closed notes exam. The format of the exam will be discussed during the semester. The exam will begin promptly at the beginning of the class period. Students will be given the entire class period to complete the exam. Students who arrive late will not be given additional time to complete the exam. Once the examination period has commenced, students are expected to remain in their seats until they have completed the exam unless they have documentation of a medical condition that would necessitate otherwise. Use of cell phones, computers, or other internet/data enabled devices is strictly prohibited during the exam and all devices must be turned off and stored way. Desks must be clear of all books, notebooks, papers and other material during the exam period. Eating or drinking during the exam is prohibited without prior notice to the professor and documentation of medical necessity or disability. Makeup exams will be allowed only with the pre-approval of the instructor or with a valid and documented excuse, such as family or medical emergencies or other unavoidable events. Makeup exams may be different from the original exam given to the class on the scheduled exam date.

**Writing Assignment**

In lieu of a final exam, students are required to submit a position paper on a controversial legal issue of their choosing. The paper is required to be 5-10 pages in length, standard 12-point font, and double-spaced. Position papers should be well researched, organized, and written. Papers must include proper citation and a work cited page using MLA format. Separate handouts describing the paper requirements in greater detail as well as a grading rubric for the paper will be distributed in class and will be posted on Canvas. Students are strongly encouraged to review their paper topic with the professor as well as submit a draft. This provides students with an opportunity to obtain feedback and comments from the professor. Any draft submitted after the deadline will not be reviewed without the prior approval of the professor. Final papers can be turned in during any class session or electronically anytime until 9:00 pm on the exam date of 12/15/15. Papers not received by the 9:00 p.m. deadline will be graded accordingly and may result in a zero grade for the assignment.

**Alternative to the Writing Assignment**

All students have individual learning styles. Personalization of education is critical for success. Students should learn and present information in ways consistent with their strengths and learning style. Therefore, students can propose reasonable substitutions to the Writing Assignment. Any alternate presentation must require the student to research and evaluate information relating to a controversial legal issue and to demonstrate their critical thinking skills. No substitution will be considered nor accepted unless a detailed written proposal is timely submitted and approved by the professor. Proposals must be submitted no later than 9/22/15.
WCAS Grading System
The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (.00), failure; I (.00), incomplete; F (.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (.00), official withdrawal from course. The graduate grading system is A (4.00), A- (3.67), Excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), good; B- (2.67), C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit; F (.00), failure.

Grade Reports. All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known the HELP Desk located in the Campus Technology Resource Center (CTRC) in O'Neill Library will issue a new one. The CTRC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver's license or passport) to obtain your password.

Text(s)/Readings (Required)
Course packet is available for purchase at WCAS. Additional material may be placed on library reserve, posted on Canvas, and/or distributed in class.

Moore, Wes. The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates. Print.

In order for students to participate effectively, assigned material must be read prior to the discussion date. The majority of the required material is contained in the Course Packet. However, some material may be posted on Canvas, placed on library reserves, or distributed in class. Material contained in the course packet is labeled in the syllabus with (CP). Students are responsible for all course material regardless of their attendance. It is important that students keep up with the required reading and are encouraged to read ahead. On occasion, additional readings may be assigned or assigned readings may be omitted.

Text(s)/Readings (Recommended)


Important Policies
http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html

Written Work
Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA format per instructor’s decision. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed [http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html].

Scholarship and Academic Integrity
It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.

Request for Accommodations
If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or AHD) or Dean Paulette Durrett, (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for students with disabilities, (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations. http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html.

Attendance
Class attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate’s notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due. Furthermore, many instructors give points for participation in class. If you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Additional assignments, penalties and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class.

Consistent with our commitment of creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. It is the responsibility of students to review course syllabi as soon as they are distributed and to consult the faculty member promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. If asked, the student should provide accurate information about the obligations entailed in the observance of that particular holiday. However, it is the responsibility of the student to complete any and all class requirements for days that are missed due to conflicts due to religious holidays.

There may be circumstances that necessitate a departure from this policy. Feel free to contact the WCAS at 617-552-3900 for consultation.
Deadlines

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the specified dates. Late assignments will be graded accordingly.

Course Policies

1. Students are expected to refer to the course syllabus and check the course website on a consistent basis for announcements and assignments.

2. In the event that the university cancels classes, such as for severe weather, students are expected to continue with reading as originally scheduled. Any assignments scheduled during those missed classes, such as an exam or paper, are due at the next class meeting unless other instructions are posted on the course website or communicated via email.

3. All cell phones and pagers are to be turned off or silenced during class. Use of laptops for anything other than note taking is not permitted. Audio or video recordings of classes are strictly prohibited unless prior notice is given to the professor and the recordings are required as an accommodation for a documented disability.

4. Students who have difficulty understanding the course material or who have any questions or concerns should contact me as soon as possible.

5. Students are expected to act professionally at all times when interacting with fellow students and the professor whether in class or during online discussions. Lack of respect of others will not be tolerated.

Course (Requirements) Assignments (readings, exercises and/or other activities)

Method of Instruction
A variety of instructional methods are used in this course including, but not limited to, lecture, class discussion, on-line discussion, case analysis, video, film, out of class assignments, written analysis, and small group activities.

It is expected that 8 hours per week of your study time out will be spent on out of class assignments and exercises. These are listed below. Please note that some weeks will require more time and some weeks less time but the average is approximately 8 hours per week over the semester.
Students are expected to complete the following out of class course assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussion Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Exercises/Experiences</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/1/15</td>
<td>Overview of the American Legal System</td>
<td><strong>Reading Assignment:</strong> <em>Before the Law</em>, Kafka Franz (LR)</td>
<td>9/1/15</td>
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<td><strong>DISCUSSION BOARD EXERCISE</strong></td>
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<td>9/8/15</td>
<td>Power of the Court</td>
<td><strong>ASSIGNMENT: Jurisdiction</strong></td>
<td>9/8/15</td>
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<td><strong>Reading Assignment:</strong> <em>Marbury v. Madison</em>, 1 Cranch 137, 2 L.Ed 60 (1803), U.S. Constitution (CP)</td>
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<td><strong>DISCUSSION BOARD EXERCISE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Judicial Code of Conduct (CW)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>DISCUSSION BOARD EXERCISE</strong></td>
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<td>9/22/15</td>
<td>Criminal Procedure and the Criminal Justice System</td>
<td><strong>Reading Assignment:</strong> <em>Judith Carroll, Petitioner</em>, 453 Mass 1006 (2009) (CP) Miscellaneous Handouts (CP)</td>
<td>9/22/15</td>
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<td><strong>Definition of Murder and Self Defense (CW)</strong></td>
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<td>10/6/15</td>
<td><em><strong>POSITION PAPER</strong></em></td>
<td><strong><strong>DRAFT DUE</strong></strong></td>
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<td><strong>ASSIGNMENT: Common Crimes</strong></td>
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<td>11/10/15</td>
<td><em><strong>MIDTERM EXAM</strong></em></td>
<td>**** MIDTERM**** IN CLASS EXAM</td>
<td>11/10/15</td>
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<td>11/24/15</td>
<td>Care and Protection Cases</td>
<td>From Place to Place, Dir. Paige Williams. Porch Productions, (2011). Film. (LR)</td>
<td>11/24/15</td>
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<td>12/1/15</td>
<td>Overview of Family Law</td>
<td>Reading Assignment: Moore, Wes. The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates. Print. (LR)</td>
<td>12/1/15</td>
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<td>DISCUSSION BOARD EXERCISE</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/15/15</td>
<td>WRITING ASSIGNMENT</td>
<td>FINAL PAPERS DUE</td>
<td>12/15/15</td>
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These assignments are subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.
Changes in the syllabus

This syllabus lists the topics and reading assignments planned for each class. It is a guideline and is subject to change to meet the students needs as perceived by the instructor or as circumstances warrant. Changes will be announced in class and possibly by other means.

WEEKLY TOPICS

Sept. 1  Overview of the American Legal System
Sources of law, judicial opinions, the Constitution, statutes, branches of government; jurisdiction and venue; types of law: criminal and civil; trial and appellate courts, federal and state courts.

Reading Assignment:
Before the Law, Kafka Franz

Sept. 8  The Power of the Court
The power of a court to hear and decide matters and the doctrine of judicial review.

Reading Assignment:
Marbury v. Madison, 1 Cranch 137, 2 L.Ed 60 (1803), U.S. Constitution

Sept. 15  Ethics and Professional Responsibility:
Ethical rules for attorneys and judicial officers, reporting misconduct; consequences of unethical behavior.

Reading Assignment:

Sept. 22  Criminal Procedure and the Criminal Justice System
The progression of a criminal case through the court system from arrest to trial. Discussion of complaints and indictments; grand jury proceedings; constitutional rights of the defendant and remedies for violation of those rights; court procedure; right to jury trial, and conviction.

Reading Assignment:
Judith Carroll, Petitioner, 453 Mass 1006 (2009)
Miscellaneous Handouts

Sept. 29  Criminal Procedure and the Criminal Justice System (continued)

Reading Assignment:

Oct 6  Overview of Criminal Law
Discussion of common crimes and their elements, and defenses thereto.
Oct. 13  NO CLASS

Oct. 20  Overview of Criminal Law (continued)
Discussion of common crimes and their elements, and defenses thereto.

Reading Assignment:
Elements of Common Crimes

Oct. 27  Juvenile Court and the Child Offender
The origins and goals of the juvenile court; jurisdiction of the juvenile court, discussion of the Doctrine of Parens Patriae, juvenile delinquents and Youthful Offenders.

Reading Assignment:
In re Gault, 387 U.S. 1 (1967)
Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1996

Nov. 3  Special Issues Related to the Actions of Juveniles
Discussion of special issues in the law related to juveniles and the applicability of Constitutional Rights to juveniles in a delinquency proceeding. Dealing with children on the verge of delinquency. Overview of the CRA process and how the Juvenile Court attempts to assist parents and school officials deal with troubled youth.

Reading Assignment:

Nov. 10  MIDTERM EXAM

Nov. 17  Juvenile Court and the Protection of Children
The right of the state to interfere in the family in order to prevent abuse and neglect; review of the laws enacted for the protection of children.

Reading Assignment:
In the Matter of Elisha McCauley, 409 Mass 143, (1991),
DeShaney v. Winnebago County Department of Social Services, 489 U.S. 189 (1989)

Nov. 24  Care and Protection Cases
Discussion of what constitutes abuse and neglect of a child and when termination of parental rights is justified; placement options for children who have been separated from their parents.

Film:
From Place to Place, Dir. Paige Williams. Porch Productions, (2011). Film.

Dec. 1  Overview of Family Law
Overview of the laws pertaining to marriage, divorce, and child custody.
Reading Assignment:
Moore, Wes. *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*. Print.

Dec. 8  The Changing Family
Redefining marriage and the metamorphosis of the family unit. Review of the landmark appellate court case *Goodridge v. the Dept. of Public Health* dealing with same-sex marriage rights in Massachusetts.

Reading Assignment:

Dec. 15  FINAL PAPERS DUE