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Law and Disability Seminar

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SYLLABUS
Seminar: Law and Disability
Fall Semester, 2006

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Office hours by appointment

General information:

Class meets Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. in Classroom E.

Required text:

Useful treatises:


Requirements and Assignments:
An electronic classroom (TWEN) has been established for this class. Each student must register for the e-classroom. Instructions about how to register were distributed in class. The e-classroom includes a calendar and three forums: Discussion, Course Materials, and Syllabus and Announcements. Class members are responsible for knowing any information that appears in any of the forums and are expected to participate in the Discussion forum. Your participation, both in the physical classroom and in the e-classroom, will be a part of your final grade for the course. I recommend you check the e-classroom at least four times a week. All announcements from me will be conveyed either orally in class or via the Syllabus and Announcements forum. I will also post the most current class syllabus there. Supplemental class materials, or electronic links to supplemental materials, will be entered in the Course Materials forum. You are encouraged to use the Discussion forum to extend our classroom discussions or to open a new thread we have not covered in class discussion.
Class members must complete two assignments, a minor one (20% of grade) and a major one (70% of grade). The remaining 10% of the grade will be based on class attendance, preparedness and participation. For the minor assignment, students may either (1) write a review of a movie involving a character with a disability, or (2) write a report on the state of ADA compliance in a particular part of the law school facility. Separate instruction sheets for the minor assignments will be posted in the Course Materials forum. **Minor assignments must be submitted electronically to the entire class as well as to me.** Minor assignments will not be assessed comparatively (i.e., no grade will be assigned; each student who satisfactorily completes the assignment will receive the full 20% credit). Likewise, the class attendance, preparedness and participation component will not be assessed comparatively (i.e., students who miss no more than two class meetings, who participate in class discussions and the e-class forum, and whose participation demonstrates they have read the assignments, will receive the full 10% credit).

The major assignment is a written paper that satisfies the law school advanced writing requirement (see *University of Georgia School of Law Student Handbook, 2001* at [http://www.lawsch.uga.edu/facstaffstu/students/handbook/adv.html](http://www.lawsch.uga.edu/facstaffstu/students/handbook/adv.html)). A separate instruction sheet for the major assignment will be posted in the Course Materials forum. Each student will also conduct a class discussion of approximately 20 minutes on the topic s/he chose for the major assignment. Written papers will receive comparative (A+ through F) grading. **The major assignment must be submitted in paper to me.**

In a seminar, students learn as much from class discussion and from guest speakers as they learn from reading assignments. Therefore, **attendance counts!** A roll sheet will be passed around at the beginning of each class session. A student who is 30 minutes or more late to class will not be permitted to sign the roll that day.

**Miscellaneous information:**

Students are welcome to drop in anytime I am in my office. I typically work 9-6 Monday through Friday. I have a fairly heavy administrative schedule and may not always be available on short notice, however. If you anticipate you may need a significant amount of time, please make an appointment so that I can reserve the time for you. I encourage you to use the e-classroom Discussion forum for asking questions or making comments about the class.

I have invited several guest lecturers to talk to the class. Guests are clustered toward the end of the semester, on the theory that you will need to spend more time working on your paper and less time preparing for class discussions at that time.

I have prepared a bibliography of law review articles on disability law that
is posted on the law library web page with a link from the TWEN page. In addition, I have collected dozens (hundreds?) of articles from general newspapers, legal newspapers, and the popular press. I have arranged some of them in broad subject categories in a file in my office. These resources are intended to help you select a topic for your major assignment. You are welcome to use the non-law review articles file in my office. Please note that you need to have selected a research topic by the fourth class meeting. I advise you to start investigating potential topics immediately.

Class Schedule and Deadlines:
August 18......................Introduction; Video: A Little History Worth Knowing; Colker, 1-35; Selection from No Pity. pp. 12-40 (on e-reserve).


September 1..................Defining disability, cont.........................................Colker, 90-129.

September 8..................Employment, qualified person.......................................Colker, 131-150.

   Deadline for submitting statement of research topic

September 15.................Employment, Reasonable accommodation .....Colker, 150-174.

September 22.................... Reasonable accommodation, cont............................Colker, 174-207.

   Deadline for submitting table of authorities

September 29...Defenses........Colker, 250-293; Student-led class discussions of research papers (2 students)

October 6 ......................ADA Title II, Colker, 597-651; Student-led class discussions of research papers (2 students).

October 13.................Student-led class discussions of research papers (3 students).

   Deadline for submitting detailed outline of research paper

October 20 ......................ADA Title III ......................................................Colker, 475-501.

   Guest Lecturer, 11:30-12:20: Mary Kissel, Executive Director of Georgia Options in Community Living, Inc., "Impact of Law and Regulation on Everyday Lives".
October 27................Student-led class discussions of research papers (2 students).

Guest Lecturer, 11:30-12:20: Manuel (Mike) Galifianakis, III, ADA Coordinator for the State of Georgia and attorney, on “State Enforcement of Disability Law”.

November 3.................Student-led class discussion of research paper (1 student); video of Lois Curtis and Elaine Wilson.

Guest Lecturer, 11:30-12:20: Andrea L. Joliffe, attorney with UGA Legal Affairs Office and formerly with Atlanta Legal Aid Society, on “Most Integrated Setting Requirement under the ADA” (Read Olmstead v. L.C., Colker, 717-736.)

Deadline for submitting minor assignment of your choice (submit electronically to entire class as well as to professor)

November 10.....................Student-led class discussions of research papers (2 students).
Guest Lecturer, 11:30-12:20: Pat Puckett, Executive Director, Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia, “The Role of Social Activism in Changing Law” Read selection from Why I Burned My Book and Epilogue from No Pity (on e-reserve).

November 17.....................Student-led class discussions of research papers (2 students).
Guest Lecturer, 11:30-12:20: Ruby Moore, Executive Director, Georgia Advocacy Office, “The Role of Litigation in Changing Law”

Deadline for submitting final draft of research paper is Nov. 27, the end of the reading period before exams (submit in paper to professor)