

MIDSTATE COLLEGE
411 W. NORTHMOOR RD.
PEORIA, IL 61614
(309) 692-4092 (800) 251-4299
Winter Term 2018

Course number & Name: LSJ 316— Women, Justice, and the Law

Credit hours: 4 Quarter Hours

Method of Delivery: Arranged with an eLearning Component (AE)

Course Description: This course explores the concept of justice and its intersection with gender. The course focuses on federal statutes and their interpretation, on sexual harassment and employment, and state statutes focusing on family law and criminal law.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of LSJ 110 (Introduction to Social Justice) or Permission from Department Director.

Text(s) & Manual(s):

1. Women, Law, and Social Control (2nd Edition)
 - Authors/Edited by: Alida V. Merlo and Joycelyn M. Pollock
 - Publisher: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon (2006)
 - ISBN – 13: 0-205-44207-2

Other Readings: Other readings as assigned and available on MIDSTATE’S LMS

Materials needed for this course: Access to computer (including Internet/email).

Topics: The topics covered in this course include:

1. History/Developments in the Role of Gender
2. The promotion of Equality with Gender Based Issues
3. Constitutional Elements Affecting Women
4. Reproductive Freedom/Rights
5. Women and the Workplace
6. Family Law
7. Women in the Legal Arena/Profession

Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1 LSJ 316: Women, Justice and the Law (Revised November, 2018 by A. Miller & M. Wiltse)

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1. Illustrate knowledge of sex and gender as a social dynamic in American public policy and law.
2. Evaluate the importance on the evolution of the legal rights of women in the United States
3. Identify the perspectives of feminist theory to analyze and critique contemporary legal theories and practices
4. Analyze the nature and scope of women's participation in the contemporary American legal profession

Midstate Grading Scale:

A = 100% to 90%

B = 89% to 80%

C = 79% to 70%

D = 69% to 60%

F = 59% to 0%

All students must have a 70% or better to pass this course.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a basic principle of the College's function. Midstate College students are expected to maintain a high level of academic honesty. Contrary actions may result in penalties such as failure of the assignment(s), a lesser grade on assignment(s), failure of the course and/or suspension from the College. The course instructor will review all submitted documents and supporting evidence in connection to the infraction. The course instructor will also review the student's personal file for other notifications of academic dishonesty before determining the level of action to be applied. The course instructor will complete the Academic Dishonesty Report form to document and describe the incident and actions taken, then kept on file. The student may appeal the decision to administration, whose decision will be final.

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The following (**plagiarism, cheating, deception, sabotage, computer misuse and copyright infringement**) are included in the actions Midstate College considers behavior contrary to the academic integrity policy; however, the policy is not limited to these examples. Further discussion of consequences regarding academic dishonesty are addressed in the Student Handbook.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is using another person's words, either by paraphrase or direct quotation, without giving credit to the author(s). Plagiarism can also consist of cutting and pasting material from electronic sources by submitting all or a portion of work for assignment credit. This includes papers, computer programs, music, sculptures, paintings, photographs, etc. authored by another person without explicitly citing the original source(s). These actions violate the trust and honesty expected in academic work. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of Midstate College. Its seriousness requires a measured, forceful response which includes consequences for inappropriate and/or no citation.

In courses containing writing assignments, the College promotes the use of Turnitin which compares the student's writing against previously submitted papers, journals, periodicals, books, and web pages. Students and instructors can use this service to reduce the incidence of plagiarism. This electronic resource has been found to conform to legal requirements for fair use and student confidentiality. It is able to provide a report to the student indicating the parts of the assignment that match.

In addition to the plagiarism policy, for any written assignment in this course, Turnitin will also indicate originality of the student's work. **No written assignment should be more than 25% similar** to other works, which means that students are to paraphrase as much as possible instead of using direct quotations from **any** source!! You must demonstrate that you comprehend the material and

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can put it in your own words! Assignments submitted that are more than 25% similar to other works will be graded down, and any assignment **50% similar** or more to other works will be given a **ZERO**.

Student Success and Tutoring:

Contact Student Success: Room 110; (309) 692-4092, ext. 1100;
studentsuccess@midstate.edu;

The Office of Student Success offers help in the following areas:

- Tutoring: Tutoring is encouraged for students who are doing their best to complete assignments yet still are experiencing difficulty in this course. Tutoring may be provided by the instructor outside of scheduled class times or through the office of Student Success.
- Writing assignment assistance: This may include learning how to conduct research; using proofreading tools such as Turnitin; outlining a topic; and applying MLA/APA standards.
- Math, accounting, and computer skills (including file management).
- Test-taking techniques.
- Note-taking skills development.
- Study skills development.
- Time management.

Instructor Information:

Ashley Miller, Attorney
National Labor Relations Board
Adjunct Faculty Professor, Legal Studies
ammiller4@midstate.edu

Live Office Hours: Tuesday 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM in Classroom 306 and by appointment.

Assistant Instructor:

Mark Wiltse, Legal Studies Director
mwiltse@midstate.edu

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Legal Studies Department

Office: 219

Phone: (309) 692-4092, Extension 2190

Fax: (309) 692-3893

Participation Requirements: You **will be required** to participate in the group discussion forum *substantively at least two posts* each week. Discussions will take place in the online discussion forum as assigned by the faculty member in the course syllabus. You will read, analyze, and respond to questions and comments from the instructor and fellow students. When applicable, include page numbers from assigned readings or other sources to cite supporting documentation. All posts should advance the discussion and deepen academic inquiry. **PLEASE NOTE:** Substantive participation requires original thought and application to the threads and student posts. Participation in the “General Discussion” thread each week – which generally is a place for students and the instructor to ‘chat,’ not engage in class material – **does not** count toward substantive participation. Congratulatory, “I agree,” and/or praising sentences – while encouraged – do not count toward substantive participation either. **Due to the structure of this course based on student-centered learning with a large emphasis on group discussion, if discussion requirements are not being met the instructor will first notify the student that more participation is required, and if the student does not comply the instructor will recommend the student be withdrawn from the course.**

Examination Information: There will be 2 examinations administered in this class.

1. **Midterm Examination** - will consist of 100 points and it will cover the chapters as indicated in the Course Outline. The Midterm Exam will be available day 1 of week 6 (at 12:00 PM) through day 1 of week 7 (at 8:00 AM).
2. **Final Examination** - will consist of 100 points and it will cover the chapters as indicated in the Course Outline. The Final Exam will be available day 1 of week 12 (at 12:00 PM) through day 7 of week 12 (at 11:59 P).

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Methods of evaluating student performance: Please see “Instructor Final Grade Determination” below for more information.

Late Policy: All work must be submitted on time (by the assignment due date). Late work will not be accepted unless arrangements have been made with the instructor (arrangements must be made **prior to** the assignment due date). Approval for accepting late work is at the discretion of the instructor and will **only** be granted for extenuating circumstances. If late work is accepted, late penalties will apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance Policy: eLearning students must login and participate at least once a week to be counted present for the week (participation is strongly recommended and essential for passing this course). You must post a gradable assignment each week to be counted as “Present” for the week.

Instructor’s Grading Scale: The following assignments and activities are outlined in a week-by-week format. All assignments (unless specified otherwise) are due by the date identified by the instructor and they need to be posted to the location specified by the faculty member in the syllabus. The following schedule indicates the days of the week to be followed in this module:

Day 1 = Monday
Day 2 = Tuesday
Day 3 = Wednesday
Day 4 = Thursday
Day 5 = Friday
Day 6 = Saturday
Day 7 = Sunday

Instructor’s Final Grade Determination: Your final grade in this course will be based on **650** points. Students will be required to complete 6 Essay Assignments and 4 Article Review Assignments over the course of the term. Guidelines and details for all writing assignments are detailed below in Course Policies and Procedures. Additionally, students will be expected to participate in group

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discussions with other students or the instructor in order to demonstrate they have read the material assigned. Points will be deducted at my discretion if a student does not demonstrate knowledge of the assigned material and/or does not contribute during group discussions. We will be engaging in group discussions over our textbook material, special readings, and any documentaries that we view throughout the term. Additionally, there will be a Midterm and Final Exam, both which will be administered online and will include essay, multiple choice, and true/false questions. Grading points are as follows:

1. 100 points: Midterm exam
2. 100 points: Final exam
3. 200 points (50 points each x 4 assignments): Article Review Assignments
4. 150 points (25 points each x 6 weeks): Essay Assignments
5. 100 points: (10 points x 10 weeks): Essay Assignments
6. 650 TOTAL POINTS

Note: All students must have a 70% or better to pass this course.

Course Policies and Procedures:

1. eLearning Sessions: In accordance with Midstate College policies, class material will be made available on Monday at 12:00 p.m. of that week (see dates in the Course Outline below) and will remain available until the following Monday until 8:00 a.m. You will be required to participate in the group discussion forum **two times** each week. This allows students one week to access the lecture and related material for that week's session and participate in the **mandatory** discussion and summary boards.
2. This course is focused on a student-centered approach that emphasizes focused reading and group discussion.
3. **Essay Assignments:** I will assign six essays questions pertaining to the material for on certain weeks. You must complete all six essay assignments. The Essays will be due by the last day of the week (Monday morning at 8:00 AM). All work must be submitted on time. Essay questions **MUST** be answered in their entirety to receive full credit. This is a 300-level college course, and these assignments should be reflective of the higher level skills

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and comprehension at this level. One or two sentence answers will not be sufficient and will be graded down. I will be looking for critical thinking and assessment. (NOTE: While this is not a composition course, I **will be** counting off for grammar and spelling errors, run-on sentences, and other writing errors. I expect good quality assignments!)

4. **Article Review Assignments:** There will be four Article Reviews worth 50 points each due throughout the term as indicated on the Course Outline. Details on how to complete the assignment are posted on Midstate's LMS. Specific instructions for this assignment will be posted on Midstate's LMS as they become due.
5. All work must be completed by **Friday, February 15, 2019 (11:59 PM)**.
6. Academic dishonesty (cheating / plagiarism) in any form **will not be tolerated** in this course and may result in the dismissal/suspension from the course/program/college. Do your own work!! Not knowing the rules of plagiarism is not a valid defense. Check with me if you are not clear on what constitutes plagiarism.
7. This is a tentative syllabus and outline and is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will receive timely notice of all such changes via announcements made online in Midstate's LMS and via email.

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Course Outline

This outline is a guideline that may change as necessary as the quarter/term progresses. However, exams WILL BE on the given dates and will include questions on all information covered to that point.

Week 1:

1. Pretest
2. Syllabus Review/Course Goals
3. Chapter 1: Gender, Justice, and Social Control: A Historical Perspective
4. Week 1 Discussion
5. Week 1 Essay

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6. *Quiz 1 available Online day 2 of week 1 (at 12:00 PM) through day 1 of week 2 (at 8:00 AM)*

Topics Covered in Week 1:

1. History/developments in the role of gender
2. Constitutional elements affecting women
3. Reproductive freedom/rights

Objectives Covered in Week 1:

1. Evaluate the importance on the evolution of the legal rights of women in the United States.
2. Identify the perspectives of feminist theory to analyze and critique contemporary legal theories and practices.

Week 2:

1. Chapter 3: Current Issues in the Law and Women: What Would a Reasonable Woman Do?
2. Chapter 4: Regulating and Controlling Women's Bodies
3. Week 2 Discussion
4. Article Review Assignment due

Topics Covered in Week 2:

1. The promotion of equality with gender based issues
2. Constitutional elements affecting women
3. Reproductive freedom/rights

Objectives Covered in Week 2:

1. Illustrate knowledge of sex and gender as a social dynamic in American public policy and law.
2. Evaluate the importance on the evolution of the legal rights of women in the United States.

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3. Identify the perspectives of feminist theory to analyze and critique contemporary legal theories and practices.

Week 3:

1. Chapter 5: Police Women in the Twenty-First Century
2. Chapter 6: Women Working in Prisons and Jail Settings: Progress and Prospects
3. Week 3 Discussion
4. Week 3 Essay

Topics Covered in Week 3:

1. The promotion of equality with gender based issues
2. Women and the workplace
3. Women in the legal arena/profession

Objectives Covered in Week 3:

1. Evaluate the importance on the evolution of the legal rights of women in the United States.
2. Identify the perspectives of feminist theory to analyze and critique contemporary legal theories and practices.
3. Analyze the nature and scope of women's participation in the contemporary American legal profession.

Week 4:

1. Chapter 7: The Practice of Law in the Twenty-First Century
2. Special Reading
3. Week 4 Discussion
4. Article Review Assignment due

Topics Covered in Week 4:

1. Women and the workplace
2. Family law
3. Women in the legal arena/profession

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Objectives Covered in Week 4:

1. Identify the perspectives of feminist theory to analyze and critique contemporary legal theories and practices.
2. Analyze the nature and scope of women's participation in the contemporary American legal profession.

Week 5:

1. Chapter 8: Rape Survivors: The Law and The Reality
2. Chapter 9: Intimate Partner Violence Against and By Women
3. Week 5 Discussion
4. Week 7 Essay

Topics Covered in Week 5:

1. History/developments in the role of gender
2. Constitutional elements affecting women
3. Family law

Objectives Covered in Week 5:

1. Evaluate the importance on the evolution of the legal rights of women in the United States.
2. Identify the perspectives of feminist theory to analyze and critique contemporary legal theories and practices.

Week 6:

1. **Midterm Examination** (100 Points), Chapters 1-9
2. *Exam available day 1 of week 6 (at 12:00 PM) through day 1 of week 7 (at 8:00 AM)*

Topics Covered in Week 6:

1. History/developments in the role of gender
2. The promotion of equality with gender based issues
3. Constitutional elements affecting women
4. Reproductive freedom/rights

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5. Women and the workplace
6. Family law
7. Women in the legal arena/profession

Objectives Covered in Week 6:

1. Illustrate knowledge of sex and gender as a social dynamic in American public policy and law.
2. Evaluate the importance on the evolution of the legal rights of women in the United States.
3. Identify the perspectives of feminist theory to analyze and critique contemporary legal theories and practices.
4. Analyze the nature and scope of women's participation in the contemporary American legal profession.

Week 7:

1. Chapter 10: Female Criminality: Ten Years Later
2. Chapter 11: Women Drug Offenders
3. Chapter 12: Women as Perpetrators of Murder
4. Week 7 Discussion
5. Week 7 Essay

Topics Covered in Week 7:

1. The promotion of equality with gender based issues
2. Constitutional elements affecting women

Objectives Covered in Week 7:

1. Evaluate the importance on the evolution of the legal rights of women in the United States.
2. Identify the perspectives of feminist theory to analyze and critique contemporary legal theories and practices.

Week 8:

1. Chapter 13: The Context of Women's Imprisonment
2. Week 8 Discussion

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3. Article Review Assignment due

Topics Covered in Week 8:

1. Constitutional elements affecting women
2. Reproductive freedom/rights

Objectives Covered in Week 8:

1. Evaluate the importance on the evolution of the legal rights of women in the United States.
2. Identify the perspectives of feminist theory to analyze and critique contemporary legal theories and practices.

Week 9:

1. Chapter 14: Still the “Best Place to Conquer Girls”: Girls and the Juvenile Justice System
2. Week 9 Discussion
3. Week 9 Essay

Topics Covered in Week 9:

1. History/developments in the role of gender
2. The promotion of equality with gender based issues
3. Constitutional elements affecting women

Objectives Covered in Week 9:

1. Illustrate knowledge of sex and gender as a social dynamic in American public policy and law.
2. Evaluate the importance on the evolution of the legal rights of women in the United States.
3. Identify the perspectives of feminist theory to analyze and critique contemporary legal theories and practices.

Week 10:

1. Chapter 15: Intersectionality of Race/Ethnicity, Class, and Justice
2. Week 10 Essay

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3. Article Review Assignment due

Topics Covered in Week 10:

1. Constitutional elements affecting women
2. History/developments in the role of gender

Objectives Covered in Week 10:

1. Evaluate the importance on the evolution of the legal rights of women in the United States.
2. Identify the perspectives of feminist theory to analyze and critique contemporary legal theories and practices.

Week 11:

1. Chapter 16: Assessing Progress and Imagining the Future for Women and Justice
2. Week 11 Discussion
3. Week 11 Essay

Topics Covered in Week 11:

1. History/developments in the role of gender
2. The promotion of equality with gender based issues
3. Women in the legal arena/profession

Objectives Covered in Week 11:

1. Identify the perspectives of feminist theory to analyze and critique contemporary legal theories and practices.
2. Analyze the nature and scope of women's participation in the contemporary American legal profession.

Week 12:

1. **Final Examination** (100 points), Chapters 10-16
2. *Final Exam available day 1 of week 12 (at 12:00 PM) through day 7 of week 12 (at 11:59 PM).*

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Topics Covered in Week 12:

1. History/developments in the role of gender
2. The promotion of equality with gender based issues
3. Constitutional elements affecting women
4. Reproductive freedom/rights
5. Women and the workplace
6. Family law
7. Women in the legal arena/profession

Objectives Covered in Week 12:

1. Illustrate knowledge of sex and gender as a social dynamic in American public policy and law.
2. Evaluate the importance on the evolution of the legal rights of women in the United States.
3. Identify the perspectives of feminist theory to analyze and critique contemporary legal theories and practices.
4. Analyze the nature and scope of women's participation in the contemporary American legal profession.