

GENDER AND THE LAW

Spring 2008

Professor Verna Williams
Office 423
Phone: 556-0866
E-mail: verna.williams@uc.edu

Course Description

This course focuses on the foundations of gender-based discrimination and the laws and theories that have developed to address it. In this connection, the course takes a practical and theoretical approach to examining the law that applies to sex discrimination in a variety of contexts, including employment, education, and domestic relations. Additionally, students will be required to engage in problem solving exercises designed to enhance their understanding of the law and develop the analytical skills necessary to practice in this or any other area of the law.

General Information

The required text for this course is Bartlett and Rhode, GENDER AND LAW: THEORY, DOCTRINE, COMMENTARY (Fourth Edition) (Aspen 2006). Additional materials will be posted periodically on the course's website, which is available through TWEN. To access the site, go to www.lawschool.westlaw.com and click the link for TWEN.

Although I do not have formal office hours, I am available to answer questions regarding the course. Please feel free to e-mail me to set an appointment.

Course Requirements and Grading

The majority of your grade will be based on a three-hour exam given at the end of the semester. From time to time, I may require students to write reflection papers about the reading material. Additionally, class participation and attendance are essential, particularly given the small size of the class. I will calculate grades as follows:

Exam: 65% of your grade
Class attendance and participation: 35%

If you must miss class, please inform me ahead of time if possible by e-mail. Chronic absences and/or unpreparedness will result in a failing grade.

Assignments

Please read the following for the first week of the course:

Date	Reading Assignment	Class Problems
January 14	Formal Equality: Historical Foundations for Women's Claim to Equality: Casebook ("CB") 1 – 15; Gloria Steinem, "Women are Never Front Runners," NY Times, January 8, 2008. Available on our TWEN site.	In assessing Hilary Clinton's chances of getting elected, Gloria Steinem says, "Gender is probably the most restricting force in American life." Is she right? Write a 1-2 page reflection paper after you read her op-ed addressing that question.
January 16	Formal Equality and the Constitutional Right to Equal Protection: CB 15 – 35	