CIVIL RIGHTS LITIGATION

Course Number: IRTS 7001 001
Call Number: 000073

Semester: Spring 2015
Professor: Moore
Credits: 3 classroom

Primary Basis for the Grade: Class participation, two out-of-class drafting assignments, and a final exam; Letter grade
Prerequisites: Constitutional Law

Enrollment: Open
Meets the Seminar Requirement? No
Meets the Writing Requirement? No
Meets Client Counseling Requirement? No
Meeting Times: T 4:00pm to 7:00pm
Location: 100B

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the history, text, structure and policy of federal civil rights statutes, with a focus on 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The course addresses doctrinal, theoretical, and practical issues that shape civil rights litigation. Theoretical issues include the appropriate role of the history of American slavery in interpreting the civil rights statutes, the benefits and drawbacks of private litigation in constitutional development, and the respective roles of federal and state judiciaries in protecting federal rights. Practical issues include the types of remedies available under the civil rights statutes, the defenses and immunities available to governments and their agents, and the availability of attorney fees for prevailing plaintiffs.

Special Note: This is a capstone class co-facilitated by Al Gerhardstein, a nationally-known civil rights attorney. The course has a heavy workload. Your grade is based on class participation, two out-of-class drafting assignments, and a final exam. Reading assignments average 80-100 pages per week. You also will work in randomly-assigned teams to prepare the drafting assignments and conduct preliminary peer review of another team’s drafts. The due dates for these assignments may be challenging. You will need to find time to work with your teammates on the drafting assignments outside of class.

Last updated: 11-6-14 cd