GOVT 4435 “Education, Social Justice and the Law”

Crosslisted as: Am Studies 4435 and GOVT 6635

Prof. Anna Marie Smith
Email: ams3@cornell.edu
Office: 309 White Hall

Seminar meets: Thursdays, 2:30-4:25

Course description.

An interdisciplinary seminar that addresses landmark legal cases and political theory debates on the right to education, with special reference to education equity issues, especially racial segregation and court-ordered desegregation; voluntary integrative enrollment schemes; affirmative action in higher education; school funding and state court litigation pertaining to the education amendments in the state constitutions; and gender equality. Our readings will be primarily drawn out of a law casebook, but we will also read a major public policy text and a legal scholars’ anthology.

Required Texts.


Other readings and memos posted on course BB site.

Assignments and evaluation.
Seminar preparation, attendance, and participation: 10% (Includes submission of two-page response paper for each of the five class meetings assigned to your group.)

Mid-term exam: 30 %

Essay (12 pages, on one of several released essay questions, or, with the permission of the instructor only, a topic of your choice): 30%

Final exam: 30%

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Schedule.


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xii-xiv; 13-16; 48-70; 88-94; 123-5; 128-159. BB.

<Response papers: Group A.>

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Darling-Hammond, chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 9. (8 is recommended.)


Response papers: Group B.


Gee and Daniel, Introduction, Meyer, Pierce, Yoder; pages 3-14; 45-7; 34-6; 36-44.


Lively and Weaver, Part I, chapter 1.

Epstein and Walker, Part I, chapters 1-3.

Group A.


Epstein and Walker, Part IV, chapters 13 and 14.

Group B.

5. Sept. 27. Racial Segregation II.

Gee and Daniel, Milliken, Dowell, Freeman, Jenkins, 463-87.

Gutmann, Democratic Education, 160-171. BB.

Lively and Weaver, Part III, chapter 8, 37-42.

Smith, Very Rough Guide, Equal Protection. BB.

Group A.
6. Oct. 4. **Looking Back at Brown.**


Pages ix-xii; 3-91; 100-142; 174-184.


<Group B.>

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<Essay questions posted on BB site.>

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8. Oct. 18. **Voluntary student assignment plans; Undocumented migrant pupils; Homeless pupils.**


<Group A.>

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Rodriguez, BB site.

Smith, Very rough guide, fundamental rights. BB.
10. Nov. 1. The Right to an Adequate Education II.

Campaign for Fiscal Equity, BB site.


Currah, Juang, and Minter, eds. Transgender Rights, BB site.

Smith, Statutes Dealing with Gender Discrimination and Schools. BB.

Noguera and Wing Unfinished Business. Excerpts. BB.

Gutmann, Democratic Education, 107-115. BB.


13. Nov. 15. Affirmative action I and II.

Bakke, BB.

Gee and Daniel, Grutter, 121-7.

14. Nov. 29. Final exam during class period.