

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION/DIVISION OF EDUCATION

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: School Law
Course Number: EDAD 833
Credit Hours: 3 Graduate Hours
Trimester: Fall 1996
Instructor: Kenneth A. Peterson, Superintendent Emeritus, Brookwood School District;
Director, Honeywell-GSU Administrators Guild; University Lecturer
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Catalog Description:

Includes an analysis of selected general legal principles, case and statute law, and law-making agencies affecting Illinois public school, including special education. Key content areas include: the legal system, role of federal, state, and local governments; the legislative process; school governance; policies and rules and regulations; church and state; civil rights; student and parent rights and responsibilities; teacher rights and responsibilities; collective negotiations, torts, and contracts; and legal research. Content is designed for practical application of school law.

Prerequisites:

EDAD 621 and EDAD 719

Required Text(s):

Kern Alexander and M. David Alexander. American Public School Law 3rd ed.

Instructional Objectives:

1. Develop skills in interpreting constitutions and statutes.
2. Develop skills in briefing and analyzing court decisions.
3. Comprehend the U.S. and State of Illinois legal systems and they relate to public schools.

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4. Understand the legal parameters and responsibilities of educators.
5. Evaluate the extent of liability as a result of action or inaction on the part of educators.
6. Utilize the knowledge of historical perspectives on various legal issues.

Topical Outline:

The Legal System/Historical Perspective	Chapters 1 and 2
Role of the Federal Government/State Governance of Public Schools	Chapters 3 and 4
Church and State	Chapter 5
School Attendance/The Instructional Program	Chapter 6 and 7
Student Rights	Chapter 8
Rights of Handicapped/Desegregation	Chapters 9 and 10
Midterm Examination	
Torts	Chapters 11 and 12
Terms and Conditions of Teacher Employment	Chapter 14
Teacher Freedoms/Teacher Dismissal: Due Process and Tenure	Chapters 15 and 16
Discrimination in Employment	Chapter 17
Collective Bargaining	Chapter 18
Finance	Chapter 19
Property	Chapter 20
Final Examination	

Evaluation:

- A. Because the course operates on a modified Socratic format, as well as constructivism and application, class presentation/participation is vital. Twenty percent (20%) of the grade will be determined by the quality of class participation and the written briefs.

The written briefs should be kept in a notebook that will be submitted and graded periodically. A list of cases to be briefed is attached to this syllabus.

- B. Forty percent (40%) of the grade will be determined by performance on the midterm examination.
- C. Forty percent (40%) of the grade will be determined by performance on the final examination.

The midterm and final examinations will test the students' knowledge of basic components of court and legislative actions and the application of these actions to the administration and operation of schools. Course work reflecting excellence will receive an "A".

Format - Legal Briefs

Name _____ Chapter _____

Brief _____

Citation: _____

Issue: _____

Facts: _____

Holding: _____

Rationale: _____

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Cases to be Briefed:

2-1	Hartzell	P 43	Free Schools
5-1	Everson	P 123	Tax Funds for Private School Transportation
5-2	Allen	P 126	Textbooks for Private Schools
5-3	Lemon	P 134	State Aid Private School Salaries
5-4	Mueller	P 154	Tax Deduction for Tuition
5-5	McCollum	P 164	Release Time for Religion
5-6	Zorach	P 165	Release Time for Religion
5-7	Mergens	P 177	Equal Access
6-1	Plyer	P 192	Students of Undocumented Aliens
6-2	Martinez	P 196	Residence Requirements
6-3	Pierce	P 204	Private School Attendance
7-1	Webber	P 231	Board Power on Curriculum
7-2	Sandlin	P 233	Denial of Promotion
7-3	Pico	P 245	Removal of Library Books
7-4	Lau	P 275	English Language Instruction
8-1	O'Rourke	P 284	Punishment for Off School Grounds
8-2	Ingraham	P 291	Corporal Punishment
8-3	Dixon	P 302	Due Process - Expulsion
8-4	Goss	P 304	Due Process - Suspension
8-5	Tinker	P 319	Armbands
8-6	Guzick	P 321	Buttons
8-7	Hazelwood	P 333	Student Publication
8-8	TLO	P 343	Student Search
9-1	Mills	P 361	Special Education Due Process
9-2	Rowley	P 371	Floor Level Education
9-3	Honig	P 395	Special Education Suspension
10-1	Brown	P 414	Desegregation
10-2	Keys	P 425	Dejure Segregation
10-3	Millikan	P 451	Detroit and Suburbs
14-1	Santee	P 575	Reassignment
14-2	Zoll	P 589	Reduction in Force
14-3	McGrath	P 597	Teacher Duties
15-1	Givhan	P 615	Freedom of Speech
15-2	East Hardford	P 617	Teacher Dress Code
16-1	Roth	P 644	Due Process
16-2	Perry	P 648	Defacto Tenure
18-1	Abood	P 755	Agency Shop

SS95

Rev. FA95

SS96

FA96