

Women & Law

Legal Studies/Gender & Women's Studies 422

(3 credits, online instruction)

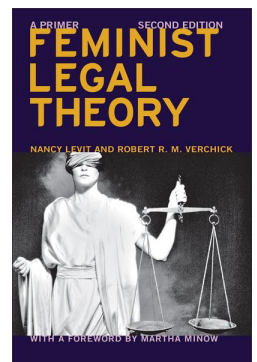
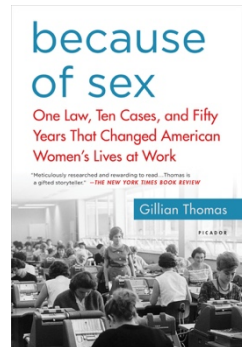
This course is chiefly focuses on the ways in which gender, sex, and law interact in the United States legal system and broader society. Law in the U.S. has both affected and reflected gender/sex norms in virtually every aspect of life, from birth (and before birth) to death. Family life, economic rights, personal behaviors, freedom from violence, civil rights – all of these are constrained by law in American society. During our summer semester, we will focus on the governance of women in law and the legal system and discuss the sociopolitical impacts related to legislation, court cases, etc. We will pay attention to intersectional social implications, including race, ability, class, etc.

Learning Goals

- Demonstrate an understanding of feminist legal theories and methodologies
- Examine historical roots of modern gender/sexed legal systems
- Identify key court cases and summarize the major holdings of those cases
- Investigate selected topics about sex and society; construct research arguments
- Analyze sociolegal governance over a wide variety of sex/gender topics

Course Materials

1. **Thomas, Gillian. (2016). *Because of Sex: One Law, Ten Cases and Fifty Years That Changed American Women's Lives at Work*. St Martin's Press/Picador.**
 - Available in Kindle, Audio, Hardcover and Paperback
 - Price range: \$3.00 - \$27.00 + shipping
 - Links: [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [Ebay Listings](#), [MacMillan](#)
2. **Levit, Nancy and Verchick, Robert. (2016). *Feminist Legal Theory*. 2nd Edition (NYU Press Reprint Edition) ISBN 10: 1479882801 *it has the purple cover***
 - Available in Kindle, Paperback, Hardcover (the hardcover one is super expensive...I don't endorse that version, go paperback) or to Rent
 - Price range: \$16.50- \$89.00 + shipping
 - Links: [Amazon](#), [Ebay Listings](#), [NYU Press](#), [Google EBook](#), [Abe Books](#)
3. Supplemental readings, videos, podcasts. and activities on Canvas



Accommodations & Accessibility

As an educator, I aim to make Legal Studies & Sociology accessible to all students, regardless of ability or previous educational experiences. Students with accommodations **must present their UW McBurney Visa to the instructor within two weeks of the first day of class**. This helps me provide you with the best possible experience and make all necessary accommodations. I encourage all students to discuss with me any personal situations or emergencies during the semester that may affect performance in the course.

Legal Studies/GWS 422: Women & Law
 Summer 2020 – Online (5/18-7/12)
 Asynchronous + Scheduled Lectures (all recorded)
<https://meetwithfrankie.youcanbook.me>

Instructor: **Frankie (S. Frank)**
 Email: sfrank9@wisc.edu
 Twitter: [@teachingfrankly](https://twitter.com/teachingfrankly)
www.teachingfrankly.com

Classroom & Inclusion Policy

Our classroom is a learning community in which individual perspectives are valuable. It is necessary for us to respect each other's growth trajectory and always remember to discuss and critique *ideas* and never *people* themselves. We are here to learn from and with each other and thus this class must be a brave space in which we share and engage with one another:

- Intentionality is important – what do you mean to convey? Choose words that demonstrate intentions
- Never assume what other individuals are thinking or what groups they represent
- Animosity or disrespect towards any student, teacher or guest speaker is unwelcome

Course Content Advisory: this course examines sexism, discrimination, violence against women and discussion of topics such as abortion, birth control, menstruation, etc.

***Each week, Monday-Thursday there will be live lecture hour from 10:00 am – 11:00 am unless otherwise noted.** Lecture will be no more than 30 minutes and the remaining time will be left for discussion or questions. All live lecture hours will be available on BBCollaborate for anyone who cannot attend or prefers recordings.

All required readings, videos, media, content, etc. will be posted to Canvas under the weekly modules.

Date	Topic & Lecture Content
Monday, May 18th	Introductions, Class Orientation, Women & Law Overview
Tuesday, May 19 th	Equal Rights Amendment Fourteenth Amendment
Wednesday, May 20 th	Feminist Legal Theories
Thursday, May 21 st	Feminist Legal Methods
Monday, May 25 th – Memorial Day	No live lecture posted, no assignments or reading due
Tuesday, May 26 th	Work, Wages & Welfare
Wednesday, May 27 th	Working Mothers
Thursday, May 28 th	Work & Pregnancy
Monday, June 1 st	Gender Stereotyping & Work
Tuesday, June 2 nd	Equal Pay & Gender Gaps
Wednesday, June 3 rd	Sexual Harassment (Part 1)
Thursday, June 4 th	Sexual Harassment (Part 2)
Monday, June 8 th	Abortion (Part 1)

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Tuesday, June 9 th	Abortion (Part 2)
Wednesday, June 10 th	Pornography (Part 1)
Thursday, June 11 th	Pornography II (Part 2)
Monday, June 15 th	Women & Military
Tuesday, June 16 th	Voting & Politics
Wednesday, June 17 th	Menstruation & Taxation
Thursday, June 18 th	Marriage & Family
Monday, June 22 nd	Title IX (Part 1)
Tuesday, June 23 rd	Title IX (Part 2)
Wednesday, June 24 th	Campus Sexual Assault (Part 1)
Thursday, June 25 th	Campus Sexual Assault (Part 2)
Monday, June 29 th	Domestic Violence & Intimate Partner Violence (Part 1)
Tuesday, June 30 th	Domestic Violence & Intimate Partner Violence (Part 2)
Wednesday, July 1 st	LGBTQIA Violence
Thursday, July 2 nd	Sexual Assault & Tribal Law
Monday, July 6 th	Feminist Legal Theory & Globalization
Tuesday, July 7 th	Female Genital Cutting
Wednesday, July 8 th	Transwomen & Law
Thursday, July 9 th	Wrapping Up & Review!

****All syllabus content is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Please use Canvas for details on videos, media, podcasts, etc. Content per night is ~40 pages or less; video/audio content is less than 1.5 hours per night.**

Grades & Assignments

Criteria	% of Grade	Details & Due Dates
Discussion	20%	<p>Discussion Posts (2.5% each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each week, there will be a discussion board with a prompt or question relevant to the week’s content (readings, videos, lectures, etc.) Students will be asked to respond to the prompts with at least 250-word responses At least one item from the relevant week must be mentioned/cited (a reading, video, lecture, etc.) Students are encouraged to make arguments and share educated opinions on the prompts. Discussions are graded on a 10-point scale for thoughtfulness, course integration, demonstrated comprehension of material Due Dates: the Sunday evening after the relevant week (8 total) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 1 Discussion due Sunday, May 24th Week 2 Discussion due Sunday, May 31st Week 3... etc. Students are NOT required to make comments on the posts of other students, but certainly comments and discussions are encouraged!
Online Assessments	45%	<p>Online quizzes completed on Canvas. Open note and open book. Students must cite where their information came from (in parenthesis). Format is multiple choice, true/false, select all and short answer. Assessments are NOT cumulative.</p> <p>Students may NOT work together or with tutors, etc.</p> <p>First Assessment (15%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available on Canvas: Thursday, June 4th by 5:00 pm Submission Due: Monday, June 8th @ 11:59 pm <p>Second Assessment (15%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available on Canvas: Thursday, June 25th by 5:00 pm Submission Due: Monday, June 29th @ 11:59 pm <p>Third Assessment (15%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available on Canvas: Thursday, July 9th by 5:00 pm Submission Due: Monday July 13th @ 11:59 pm
Research Project: “Before the Courts”	35%	<p>Project Proposal (10%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What contemporary legal issue concerning women would you most want to bring before the Supreme Court of your state, your country, or the United Nations? Proposals must be 250 words minimum and include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The legal issue you will research and debate The format your project will take (details in assignment on Canvas) You must also have 5 academic, peer-reviewed scholarly references You must have 3 non-academic references (news, blogs, pop culture, editorials, etc). that you will address in your project, include, debate.

		Research Project (25%) <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Submission Due: Thursday, July 2nd @ 11:59 pm<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ You must have 10 total academic, peer reviewed scholarly references in your final project○ Papers, videos, podcasts, websites, or other projects must be submitted to Canvas either in full or as links to external content○ Formal citations list, in-text citations required for all projects○ Papers will be run through TurnItIn.com by instructor○ Videos, Podcasts and other media must include a transcript with citations○ Websites, blogs, content boards must also include citations
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Graduate Students & Law Students

I am thrilled to have graduate students and law students in this course! To ensure that the class meets the standards of graduate-level work, I do require an additional assignment and an adjustment of the “Before the Courts” project.

I will meet with each advanced degree student at the beginning of the semester, but the requirement will be a 15-20-page legal review about a topic related to women and the law (topics may be an expansion on anything I cover in the course or on another topic of your choosing). Instead of creating a video, podcast or other medium, students will meet with the instructor via Zoom call (30-60 minutes) to discuss their paper and answer questions from the court (aka me and my cats)

- Students must have at least 15 academic/scholarly references
- Papers must address counterarguments to the topic or argument

The paper shall be akin to a formal research article or law review, depending on your degree and your interests. The goal is to have a project that supports your professional career or starts you on the path to a publication. Contact the instructor for more detail.

Grading Standards

The grading scale for the course is as follows:

- A = 93-100
- AB = 87-92
- B = 83-86
- BC = 77-82
- C = 70-76
- D = 60-69,
- F = 59 or below.

***Grades are returned within 10 days of receiving the assignment (thank you for your patience).**

****I only “bump” grades or round up a final semester grade if you are above the 0.5 mark AND you have excellent participation and attendance.**

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Late Policy

Due dates are not suggestions – they are deadlines. These dates make the course manageable for you and for your instructor. If you have an *emergency* that requires an extension, you must consult with me *before* the due date. Short of an emergency, to turn in a paper late, you must request permission within 48 hours of the due date. There are certainly events in your life and responsibilities that arise and I hope that you'll keep me informed! Please reach out early and regularly if you need to. There is so little I can do when students explain a situation after a deadline has already passed or a grade has been issued.

Standard late penalty: for each day an assignment is late, your grade will be lowered 5%. Late assignments will not be accepted past one week following the due date and will thus receive an F or no points.

Academic Integrity

The Office of the Dean of Students defines academic misconduct to include, but is not limited to the following:

- Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation (**plagiarism**)
- Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise (using notes for a closed-book online exam)
- Forges or falsifies academic documents or records (**having a friend sign you in for attendance when you are absent**)
- Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others
- Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance (altering test answers and submitting the test for re-grading)
- Assists other students in any of these acts









In an effort to prevent academic dishonesty, **all written assignments will be run through Turnitin.com**. This service checks your assignment against all written assignments available online, in other courses and at other universities. This course allows students to use materials in an open-book format, but I do not allow people to work together or use family, friends, peers, tutors, teachers, etc. The "Before the Courts" project must also be your own creative and original work.

Course Concerns & Department Contact

The Department of Sociology embraces the notion that intellectual community is enriched and enhanced by diversity along a number of dimensions, including race, ethnicity and national origins, gender and gender identity, sexuality, class, age, ability, and religion. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated! Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students.

While formal evaluations of the course and section will be administered at the end of the term, I will be administering a more informal midterm evaluation of the course about halfway through the course. I do this so that I can better gauge what you as students are finding helpful as well as areas for improvement or change.

The Department of Legal Studies and the Department of Gender Studies distributes student evaluations of all instructors and teaching assistants near the end of the semester. Students who have more immediate concerns about this course should report them to the instructor (sfrank9@wisc.edu) or the chair of the department (arubel@wisc.edu).

	<p>UW-Madison Writing Center: For course papers and general writing guidance, students may wish to visit the campus writing center, located at 6171 Helen C. White Hall, (608) 263-1992. Webpage: www.writing.wisc.edu. Excellent writing instructors on staff offer group classes and one-on-one meetings to help with all aspects of the writing process, from brainstorming to polishing a final draft. Even the best writers have room for improvement!</p>
	<p>Tom Durkin, Social Science Librarian: Tom is a truly wonderful resource when it comes time to find sources for social science research. He can help you navigate the library's online databases to find relevant, peer-reviewed sources. His office is in the Social Science Reference Library on the (rear) 8th floor of the Sewell Social Science Building. You can email him at ssrilib@library.wisc.edu. Visit his website for more information.</p>
	<p>Student Technology Training: Free technology training for all students. Call (608) 265-6624 or e-mail sts@doit.wisc.edu. Webpage: www.doit.wisc.edu/training/student.</p>
	<p>McBurney Disability Resource Center: Students with disabilities, visible and invisible, should contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center located at 702 W Johnson St #2104, (608) 263-2741. Webpage: www.mcburney.wisc.edu.</p>
 Multicultural Student Center	<p>The primary mission of the Multicultural Student Center is to collaboratively strengthen and sustain an inclusive campus where all students, particularly students of color and other historically underserved students, can realize an authentic Wisconsin Experience. https://msc.wisc.edu/about-the-msc/</p>
	<p>University Counseling and Consultation Services (C&CS): School (and life) can be stressful! To obtain assistance for personal, social, career, and/or study skills problems, please contact the counseling center at University Health Services: 333 East Campus Mall, 7th Floor. (608) 265-5600 (option 2). www.uhs.wisc.edu/services/counseling.</p>
	<p>End Violence on Campus (EVOC): EVOC exists to prevent violence as well as to support survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking. Please contact EVOC to learn more about their services or to make an appointment at the 8th Floor of 333 East Campus Mall. (608) 265-1483. evoc@uhs.wisc.edu.</p>
	<p>Greater University Tutoring Services (GUTS): volunteer tutors at GUTS provide assistance with academic courses, study skills, conversational English, and intercultural exchange. They provide free tutoring and mentoring to hundreds of students and university affiliates each semester. 333 East Campus Mall, 4th floor, Office # 4413. 608-263-5666. http://www.guts.wisc.edu.</p>