CIVIL RIGHTS (CIGL)

CIGL 0229. CHILDREN & IMMIGRATION LAW. (2 Credits)
This seminar on Children and Immigration Law uses an interdisciplinary approach to explore emerging law, policy, research, and practice related to migrant children and their families. Following a human rights-based approach, classes will survey the key international and federal legal frameworks impacting children and their families in the context of migration. Students will be exposed to the complexity of legal issues that affect migrant children and youth as immigration law intersects with many other systems, including child welfare, juvenile and criminal justice, education, health, and employment, and will apply the law to individual case study scenarios as well as complex policy questions. Comparisons will be drawn to laws and policies in other countries. Guest speakers will be invited to present and participate in classes, emphasizing innovative strategies for promoting children’s rights in practice.

CIGL 0230. CRITICAL RACE THEORY. (2,3 Credits)
In the mid-1980s, a new scholarly movement developed in legal academe, Critical Race Theory ("CRT"). Early advocates of CRT—including Derrick Bell, Mari Matsuda, Charles Lawrence, Richard Delgado, Kimberlé Crenshaw, and Patricia Williams—challenged both the substance and style of conventional legal scholarship. Contrary to the traditional notion that racial subordination represents a deviation from the liberal legal ideal, this body of work recasts the role of law as historically central to and complicit in upholding racial hierarchy as well as other hierarchies of gender, class and sexual orientation. The goal of this seminar is to examine the genesis of CRT and, in light of its theoretical commitments, to explore CRT’s possibilities and limitations. The Final Grade calculation will be based on class room participation (quality, frequency, and attendance), a short Op-Ed drafting assignment, and a Take Home Examination Paper. Students may submit a Research Paper in lieu of the Take Home Examination Paper, only after having the paper topic certified with the Professor. The Research Paper can be considered for Upper Class Writing Requirement certification.

CIGL 0231. LAW OF RACE. (3 Credits)
This course provides an historical overview of race in the American legal system. Moving from topics such as slavery and the early treatment of Native Americans to the modern era, the course traces the evolution and development of current legal doctrine pertaining to race and racial discrimination. Students will gain an understanding of the foundations of modern antidiscrimination law, as well as an appreciation of the predominant critiques of the U.S. Supreme Court’s jurisprudence in race cases. In addition, they will be encouraged to assess current and proposed approaches to race and racial discrimination by looking at the operation of race in a number of contexts, including affirmative action, the criminal justice system, and intimate relationships.

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Attributes: INLJ.

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Attributes: INLJ, JD, PIF.

CIGL 0337. DISABILITY LAW. (2 Credits)
The DISABILITY LAW seminar focuses on the many legal issues faced by people living with chronic illnesses and the role that law has and will play in developing effective protections and responses. We will review and discuss applicable laws including the Americans With Disabilities Act and Family Medical Leave Act and also focus on their practical applications. Class subjects include employment rights of the disabled, right to die/assisted suicide, estate planning, access to insurance and legal issues pertinent to AIDS, cancer and mental health as protected disabilities. There is no casebook and the text, Understanding Disability Law, gives an overview that will be supplemented by relevant readings. There is no exam: evaluation is based on a final paper which may meet the Fordham writing requirement as well as class participation. Students will also be required to present their papers in class.

Attributes: INLJ.

CIGL 0521. POVERTY LAW. (2,3 Credits)
Although varied in its particulars, poverty in the United States is extensive. It is also disproportionately spread among the population, with African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans experiencing much higher levels of poverty, and a greater persistence of poverty, than other demographic groups. In this seminar, we will examine the extent of poverty in the United States and its root causes, as well as the historical development of social welfare policy. We will focus on the legal responses to poverty, exploring how the law shapes the lives of low-income people and communities. In particular, we will explore a rights-based approach to ameliorating poverty and the relevance of family form to poverty. In addition to weekly reflection papers, students will conduct independent research and write one long paper.

Attributes: INLJ, JD, PIE.