WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

EDA 7690
Section 981

8/11/17

Introduction to Michigan School Law

DIVISION: College of Education
PROGRAM AREA: Administrative and Organizational Studies
COURSE: EDA 7690-001, Introduction to Michigan School Law
CREDIT: 4 Credit Hours
TERM: Fall 2017
LOCATION: Wyandotte
DAY/TIME: Wednesdays, 5:30 PM – 9:10 PM
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jon Dean
PHONE: C – 313.694.7260
E-MAIL: jon.dean@gpschools.org

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Constitutional and legal factors affecting Michigan public education. (F, W)

COURSE OUTCOMES:
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the legal aspects of public education in the U.S. We will approach most of the legal issues from the perspective of leadership and policy. Particular attention will be paid to the governance structure of public education, including the role of federal, state, and local governments. The course will focus on policies and litigation concerning access to education, policies concerning standards-based education reform, accountability, and Every Student Succeeds Act. We will also consider issues surrounding the separation of church and state, discrimination, special education, and the rights and freedoms of students and teachers. Particular focus will be placed on legal requirements in the State of Michigan.

At the end of the course students should be able to:
• Understand the United States legal system, sources of law, and the role of courts in education policy making;
• Describe the legal principles and ideologies regarding education;
• Describe constitutional principles and their application to schools;
• Understand the specific context of educational law in Michigan;
• Engage in debate on legal problems related to education.

**Course Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>August 30th</td>
<td>Class Overview, Board Policies &amp; Basic Legal Structure</td>
<td>McCarthy et al. (2013) – Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>September 13th</td>
<td>School Instructional Issues – attendance, fees, curriculum, testing, ESSA, etc.</td>
<td>McCarthy et al. (2013) – Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>September 20th</td>
<td>Student Classifications – race, language, gender, sexual orientation</td>
<td>McCarthy et al. (2013) – Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>September 27th</td>
<td>Students with Disability and Special Education – ADA, IDEA, Section 504 – Speaker Presentation</td>
<td>McCarthy et al. (2013) – Chapter 6</td>
<td>District Policy Analysis Due &amp; Case Law Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>October 4th</td>
<td>Student Freedom and Rights – speech, appearance, extracurricular activities, etc.</td>
<td>McCarthy et al. (2013) – Chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>October 11th</td>
<td>Student Discipline – expulsions, suspensions, corporal punishment, sanctions, search and seizure, etc.</td>
<td>McCarthy et al. (2013) – Chapter 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>October 18th</td>
<td>No Class – Work Week</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>October 25th</td>
<td>Tort Liability – negligence, intentional torts, defamation, etc.</td>
<td>McCarthy et al. (2013) – Chapter 13</td>
<td>Code of Conduct Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>November 1st</td>
<td>Teachers’ Rights – freedom of expression, academic freedom, freedom of association, appearance, etc.</td>
<td>McCarthy et al. (2013) – Chapter 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>November 8th</td>
<td>Terms and Conditions of Employment – certification, contracts, evaluations, personnel records, etc.</td>
<td>McCarthy et al. (2013) – Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>November 15th</td>
<td>Termination in Employment and Labor Relations – due process, employee discipline, etc.</td>
<td>McCarthy et al. (2013) – Chapter 11</td>
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Course Assignments:

All course assignments should be type written, double spaced, use 1 inch margins and be completed in Times New Roman or Calibri 12 point font. Assignments should be submitted using Grade Center via the Blackboard site unless otherwise noted.

Student evaluation will be based on the following:

Readings/Class Participation (15 points): You are expected to read all of the required readings listed in the syllabus. The readings are also essential for actively participating in class discussions. Your class participation will be based active contributions to activities and class discussion.

NOTE: Class attendance is mandatory. You are fully expected to attend every class for the entire duration. More than 2 absences may result in you failing the course.

Case Law Presentation (10 points): Each student will select a legal case relevant to the topic for a given class. Students should prepare a 7-10 minute summary of the case which will be presented to the class.

DUE: We will align these presentations with course topics whenever possible. Sign up in class with approximately two students per week starting September 13th presenting.

District Policy Analysis (20 points): You are required to summarize and critique an educational policy in your local school or district related to state or federal education law/mandates/accountability (e.g., curriculum standards, testing, graduation requirements, provision of special education, etc.). Your approximately 5 page paper should provide a brief description of the policy within your school or district, as well as the stated policy goals. Additionally your paper should provide an evaluation of compliance with a specific law or government mandate and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the policy in meeting stated policy goals.

DUE: September 27th; post the assignment to Grade Center on Blackboard.

Code of Conduct Review (15 points): Provide a written overview and analysis of your district’s student code of conduct. Be sure that your review includes a careful analysis of your district’s compliance with the student discipline topics discussed in class including due process. This overview and analysis should be a minimum of three pages in length.
Due: October 25th: post the assignment to Grade Center on Blackboard.

**Legislation Partner Presentation (10 points):** As a partnership, you are to pick a piece of proposed education legislation (either state level or federal level) and make a presentation (~10-15 minutes) which outlines the proposed legislation, an analysis of the intended impact on educational outcomes, and an analysis of the pros and cons of such legislation.

DUE: Sign up in class. Presentations will start the week of September 13th with approximately one presentation per week.

**Take Home Final Exam (30 points):** The final exam will consist of short response items and one longer response item, focusing on both national and Michigan education law issues covered in the course. You will receive the exam on the last day of class, and it will be due on our final exam date.

DUE: December 13th; post the assignment to Grade Center on Blackboard.

**Class Policy:**

You are expected to attend all class sessions, to arrive on time, and to be present for the entire session. Class activity will consist of informal lectures and discussion based, in large part, on the readings. You are expected to participate in the discussion.

Laptops are to be used for class work only (e.g., taking notes, accessing articles), and not for emailing, searching the Internet, grading papers, or any other non-class related activities. Cell phones, smart phones, etc. should be placed on silent mode and be kept put away during class time.

If you bring in food/drink please clean up after yourself.

**Confidentiality:**

Your experiences are an important part of your professional learning and you will likely be discussing them in this course. Just as administrators and teachers are expected to respect the privacy and dignity of the children and families with whom they work, so we expect you to use discretion in discussing your experiences. In class, casual conversations, or social situations, do not relate stories from classrooms or schools that may be embarrassing to teachers or students or that include sensitive information about a child, family, or coworkers.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. You are in this class to learn, and you must commit the effort to obtaining your own knowledge and skills. You should already be aware, but for specific examples of academic dishonesty, including what constitutes plagiarism, you should read the Undergraduate and Undergraduate Bulletins found at [http://www.bulletins.wayne.edu/](http://www.bulletins.wayne.edu/), The Student Due Process Policy at [http://students.slis.wayne.edu/policies/index.php](http://students.slis.wayne.edu/policies/index.php) and any other formal documents that are created for students at WSU found through [www.wayne.edu](http://www.wayne.edu). You will be asked to sign a "denial of academic dishonesty/pledge of authenticity" statement and attach it to each product turned in for credit in this class. Any academic dishonesty will clearly be
considered premeditated and not accidental. Expulsion is probably not worth the few hours of work you will avoid by cheating, so please think carefully and thoroughly, ask for help when needed, and make smart decisions.

WSU Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism includes copying material (more than 5 consecutive words) from outside texts or presenting outside information as if it were your own or by not crediting authors through citations. (APA cites require author, year, and page number for direct quotes in quotation marks and for paraphrases with no quotation marks.) It can be deliberate or unintended. If in doubt about the use of a source, cite it. University policy states that students can be subject to multiple sanctions, from reprimand to expulsion as a consequence of academic dishonesty. Students caught plagiarizing information from other sources will receive a failing grade in the course. To enforce this policy, all outside references must be submitted with assignments. [Check out web resources related to plagiarism to learn more. For instance a good plagiarism definition can be found at: http://www.suite101.com/content/a-definition-for-plagiarism-a10232; and paraphrasing examples good and bad at http://library.csusm.edu/plagiarism/howtoavoid/how_avoid_paraphrase.htm.]

Grading:

Your grade will be determined as follows:

- Readings/Class participation 15 points
- Case Law Presentation 10 points
- District Policy Analysis 20 points
- Code of Conduct Review 15 points
- Legislation Partner Presentation 10 points
- Take Home Final Exam/Final Paper 30 points

Total 100 points

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 - 72</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Withdrawal Policy

- Students who withdraw from a course after the end of the 4th week of class will receive a grade of WP, WF, or WN.
  - WP will be awarded if the student is passing the course (based on work due to date) at the time the withdrawal is requested
  - WF will be awarded if the student is failing the course (based on work due to date) at the time the withdrawal is requested
  - WN will be awarded if no materials have been submitted, and so there is no
basis for a grade

- Students must submit their withdrawal request on-line through Pipeline. The faculty member must approve the withdrawal request before it becomes final, and students should continue to attend class until they receive notification via email that withdrawal has been approved. Withdrawals can be requested at any point from the first week of class through the end of the 10th week of classes.

- Students are sent two communications each semester regarding course withdrawals and deadlines for withdrawing. The medical withdrawal process can be initiated for up to three months following the end of a term, and is not impacted by this change in withdrawal deadline. Exceptions for other reasons would be considered only when circumstances beyond a student’s control affect ability to complete course requirements, and occur after the end of the withdrawal period and prior to the beginning of the final examination period. In no case will a late withdrawal be approved after a student has taken the final exam, or received a final grade in the class. The appropriate remedy for a poor grade is normally to repeat the course. If questions exist about exceptions for course withdrawal after the deadline, please consult with the Office of the Registrar prior to advising a student to seek an exception.

**Attention Students with Disabilities:**

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365 (TDD only). Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs. Student Disability Services’ mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University.

Please be aware that a delay in getting SDS accommodation letters for the current semester may hinder the availability or facilitation of those accommodations in a timely manner. Therefore, it is in your best interest to get your accommodation letters as early in the semester as possible.

**Religious Observance Policy:**

Because of the extraordinary variety of religious affiliations represented in the University student body and staff, the Wayne State University calendar makes no provision for religious holidays. It is University policy, however, to respect the faith and religious obligations of the individual. Students who find that their classes or examinations involve conflicts with their religious observances are expected to notify their instructors well in advance so that alternative arrangements as suitable as possible may be worked out.

**Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Policies:**
Wayne State University respects and protects the personal and academic freedom of its students, faculty and academic staff. The programs and activities of the University are open to all qualified persons without regard to race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, age, national or ethnic origin, political belief, or physical handicap, except as may be required by law. The University seeks to demonstrate, through all its programs and activities, its appreciation of human diversity and to maintain an atmosphere of tolerance and mutual respect that will nourish human liberty and democratic citizen-ship. *Source: WSU’s Mission Statement ([http://www.wayne.edu/MissionStatement.htm](http://www.wayne.edu/MissionStatement.htm)).*

**The Writing Center:**

The Writing Center (2nd floor, UGL) provides individual tutoring consultations free of charge for graduate and undergraduate students at Wayne State University. The Writing Center serves as a resource for writers, providing tutoring sessions on the range of activities in the writing process – considering the audience, analyzing the assignment or genre, brainstorming, researching, writing drafts, revising, editing, and preparing documentation. The Writing Center is **not** an editing or proofreading service; rather, students are guided as they engage collaboratively in the process of academic writing, from developing an idea to correctly citing sources. To make an appointment, consult the Writing Center website: [http://www.clas.wayne.edu/writing/](http://www.clas.wayne.edu/writing/). To submit material for online tutoring, consult the Writing Center HOOT website (Hypertext One-on-One Tutoring) [http://www.clas.wayne.edu/unit-inner.asp?WebPageID=1330](http://www.clas.wayne.edu/unit-inner.asp?WebPageID=1330).