I. Class Description

The objective of this class is to help students understand emerging federal and state disability laws (primarily the federal Americans with Disabilities Act -- “ADA”). One goal of the class is to place in a legal, societal, and historical context the policy issues, statutes and case law in this area. A second goal is to explore the role of lawyers in supporting the full participation in society of individuals with disabilities.

II. Required Texts and Reading Materials Available in the Law School Bookstore

The class reading schedule is provided on the class schedule in Part IV below. Guest speakers could modify the presentation of class materials.


III. Grading

Your grade will have two components.

1. The bulk of your grade (95%) will be based on a take home final based on topics discussed in class. The take home final will be distributed on Monday April 14 in class and due Friday, April 18, at noon, to be handed in to my secretary [she will assign you an exam number]. The final will be graded anonymously and limited to ten typed pages in length (with 12 point font (Times Roman), double spaced, one inch margins, with no footnotes in text of answer), not including a maximum of two additional pages of endnotes and/or references (other details will be provided at a later date).
2. Class participation and high level of attendance will account for 5% of your course grade. Students will be evaluated on the quality and creativity of class discussion. Students will be allowed to miss up to three classes, provided that you notify me in advance, and you request from videotaping services to review the class on videotape. More than three non-approved class absences will require withdrawal from the class.

IV. Working Syllabus and Required Readings


January 13  Introduction to Class & Overview -- ADA xi - 10; Employment xi – 50; West x-xx. Video “The Ten Commandments.”

January 20  No class -- holiday

January 27  Employment (ADA Title I) overview, Definition of Disability, and “Qualified Individual with a Disability”– ADA pp. 29-38; Employment 103-45; West xx-xx.

January 30  Thursday Make-Up Class -- Law, Health Policy & Disability Center, Employment Law and Policy Conference. Students must attend one of the conference sessions, preferably the talk by the luncheon speaker between 12-1 PM [lunch not provided for students], conference in Levitt Auditorium.

February 3  Qualified Individual with a Mental Disability – Employment 146-200; West xx-xx. Video: “When Billy Broke his Head.”

February 6  Thursday Make-Up Class -- Room 235, 12:40 – 2:10 PM. Reasonable Accommodations – ADA 39-50; Employment 201-57; West xx-xx.

February 10  Reasonable Accommodation – Employment 258-81; West xx-xx. Video: “People in Motion.”


February 24  Defenses, Remedies, Attitudes – ADA 51-61; Employment 356-84; West xx-xx.

February 27  Thursday Make-Up Class – Room 235, 12:40 – 2:10 PM. Law, Health Policy & Disability Center – Policy and Law Research


March 17  No class -- spring break


March 31  Government, Society and Disability (ADA Title II) – West xx-xx. Video: “The Struggle to be Normal.”

April 7  Public Accommodations and Disability (ADA Title III) – West xx-xx. Video: “A Change in Perspective.”

April 14  Culture and Disability – Employment 387-468. Take Home Final Distributed.

April 21  Segregation and Stigma: Film-- “One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest,” Closing.

END