GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

EDLE 612
Education Law
4:30 – 7:30, Wednesdays
Wilson High School

Professor: Jeannine S. Tate, Ph.D.
Cell: 571-214-9970
Email: Jeannine.Tate@fcps.edu
Office Hours: After Class

TEXTBOOK:
2. Additional readings will be required.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
1. Prerequisites: EDLE 610 and admission to the program. Corequisite: EDLE 791
2. Provides legal foundations of US. Public schools. Examines general principles of statutory and case law and applies judicial decisions to educational environments. Focuses on legal responsibilities, constraints, and opportunities of public school officials. Includes a component of Special Education Law.

NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY: A variety of instructional methods are used to cover the subject matter. These methods include large and small group discussions, cooperative learning, media, Internet assignments, case study analysis, lecture, guest speakers, group presentations, and individual research.

STUDENT OUTCOMES: This course is designed to enable students to:
1. Know and understand the substance of major court rulings that affect principals in their day-to-day school leadership.
2. Anticipate potential problems and take appropriate preventative measures.
3. Make effective and legally defensible decisions in the best interests of the school community.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS: ISSLC
COURSE REQUIREMENTS: You are expected to attend each class because discussions, lectures, presentations, and hands-on activities are important parts of the course. The completion of and reflection on assigned readings, constructive participation in discussions and group work, and partaking in on-line communication are routine expectations.

Notification in advance is required if you miss a class. Any assignments, readings, etc. must be completed before the start of the following class.

All written assignments must be complete on a word processor and turned in on the due date. Late assignments may affect your final grade, and will not be accepted without making prior arrangements.

EVALUATION AND GRADING:

1. Mid Term Exam  30%
2. Final Exam  30%
3. Special Education Paper  30%
4. Legal Briefs  5%
5. Class Participation  5%

The grading scale is:
90 – 100 = A;  80 – 90 = B;  70 – 80 = C;  69 and below = Failing
If grades fall at either end of the scale, a plus or a minus is awarded. (An A+, C+, or C- will not be awarded.)

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES:

1. Legal Brief Religion February 9
2. Legal Brief Teachers February 23
3. Legal Brief Students March 9
4. Legal Brief Torts April 13

Mid Term Take-Home Exam March 23
Final Take-Home Exam May 4

Special Education Paper April 20

Assessment rubrics for the legal briefs and the paper will be distributed and discussed in class when the assignments are made.
## COURSE CONTENTS
### EDLE 612

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| #1        | 1/26 | Introductions  
Expectations  
The School and the Legal Environment |
|           |      | **Homework:**  
1. **Textbook Readings**  
Chapter 1: pp. 1-17  
Chapter 2: pp. 17-55 |
| #2        | 2/2  | Religion in Public Schools  
**Homework:**  
1. **Textbook Readings**  
Chapter 10: pp. 493-531  
2. **Legal Brief** |
| #3        | 2/9  | Staff Selection, Contracting, and Evaluation  
**Homework:**  
1. **Textbook Readings**  
Chapter 11: pp. 571-600 |
| #4        | 2/16 | Teachers’ Rights, Terms, and Conditions of Employment  
**Homework:**  
1. **Textbook Readings**  
Chapter 13: pp. 724 –737  
2. **Legal Brief** |
| #5        | 2/23 | Students’ Rights  
**Homework:**  
1. **Textbook Readings**  
Chapter 13: pp. 738-762 |
| #6        | 3/2  | Search and Seizure  
Student Discipline  
**Homework:**  
1. **Textbook Readings**  
Chapter 13: pp. 713-724  
Chapter 4: pp. 188-196 |
| #7        | 3/9  | Compulsory School Attendance  
Academic Issues  
Student Records  
**Homework:**  
1. **Textbook Readings**  
Chapter 14: pp.860-880 |
#8 3/16 Special Education
Bilingual and Special Language Programs
Mid Term Take Home Exam Due

Homework: 1. School Crisis Plans
Use Blackboard or the Internet to find crisis plans for a school district.

#9 3/23 Health and Safety

#10 3/30 ***** Spring Break *****

Homework: 1. Textbook Readings
Chapter 8: pp. 403-431

#11 4/6 Tort Liability for Negligence

Homework: 1. Textbook Readings
Review Chapter 8

#12 4/13 Duty and Standard of Care
Distribute Take-Home Final Exam

#13 4/20 Copyright Law
Textbook Selection and Censorship
Community Education
Special Education Paper Due

#14 4/27 Related Issues

#15 5/4 Final Class Activities
Take-home Final Due
Course Evaluation
Personal Student Evaluation