

George Mason University
Graduate School of Education

Course: EDLE 612: School Law

Instructor: James E. Hedrick, Ed.D.

Class Location: Millbrook High School

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Office Hours: By appointment

Required Textbook:

Alexander, M. David and Alexander, Kern (2005). American Public School Law, 6th edition, Thomson & West.

Supplemental Textbook:

Dunklee, Dennis R. and Shoop, Robert J. (2002). The Principal's Quick Reference Guide to School Law: Reducing Liability, Litigation, and other Potential Legal Tangles, Corwin Press, Inc.

Course Description:

This course will focus on the case law that has impacted and influences the operation of public schools. The issues to be discussed include: the instructional program, special education, search and seizure, sexual harassment in the work place, student rights, teacher rights, and other issues involving the general operation of schools.

The main delivery of instruction will be through the reading, the review, and the discussion of pertinent case law. The students will apply concepts discussed in class to case studies and reach solutions based on the knowledge that they have gleaned from the above.

Candidate Outcomes:

1. Candidates will demonstrate an understanding of case law that impacts the operation of public schools.
2. Candidates will use case studies to apply knowledge of case law.
3. Candidates will demonstrate the use of their research skills through the use of technology and the use of Lexus Nexus.
4. Candidates will identify an issue in educational law and write a point of law paper identifying the issue, citing appropriate case law, and discussing the possible ramifications and significance of these findings.
5. Candidates will write four legal briefs on a variety of topics associated with school law.

Nature of Course Delivery:

1. Reading
2. Research
3. Discussion in small and large group settings

It is expected that all students will receive an A for the course. To that end, the course requirements are as follows:

1. Students are expected to attend each class. If an absence is necessary, then the student should notify the instructor via telephone or by email in advance of the absence.
2. Students are expected to complete all required readings prior to class.
3. Students are expected to participate in all class discussions and to make meaningful contributions.
4. Students are expected to present masters level work in terms of scope, depth of analysis, writing mechanics, appearance, and adherence to APA format.
5. Students are expected to complete all assignments and to turn in all assignments on due dates. If an emergency should arise, it is expected that the instructor will be contacted as soon as possible to qualify for an exception.
6. Students who fail to submit work on the appropriate due date (without prior approval) will receive a 5% deduction on the final grade for the assignment.

George Mason University Honor Code:

Students are expected to abide by the GMU Honor Code. Violations such as cheating, attempted cheating, plagiarizing, lying, stealing, or any attempt at academic dishonesty should be reported to the Honor Committee. To review the Honor Code in its entirety, please refer to the University Catalogue or www.gmu.edu.

Specific Course Requirements:

1. Mid Term Exam (100 points)
2. Final Exam (100 points)
3. Point of Law Paper (100 points)
4. Legal Briefs (20 points/brief)
5. Class Participation (50 points)

Grading Scale:

A+	100
A	95-99
A-	90-94
B+	85-89
B	80-84
B-	75-79
C	70-74
F	69 and below

Class Dates and Time:

See attached syllabus.

March 9, 2005

- **Midterm Exam**

March 16, 2005

- Chapter 10 Rights of Students with Disabilities (SPED) pg. 484-548
- Chapter 12 Defamation and Student Records (FERPA) pg. 593-630

March 23, 2005

- Spring Break-NO CLASS

March 30, 2005

- **Legal Brief # 3: Teacher Issues**
- Chapter 11 Tort Liability pg. 549-592
- Chapter 13 School District Liability pg. 631-668

April 6, 2005

- Chapter 14 Certification, Contracts, and Tenure pg. 669-717
- Chapter 15 Teacher Rights and Freedoms pg. 718-764

April 13, 2005

- Peer review (1st) of point of law paper
- Chapter 16 Due process Rights of Teachers pg. 765-793

April 20, 2005

- Peer review (2nd) of point of law paper
- Chapter 17 Discrimination in Employment pg. 794-854
- **Legal Brief # 4: Torts**

April 27, 2005

- **Point of law paper due**
- Review for final exam
- Chapter 20 School Finance pg. 940-983

May 4, 2005

- **Final Exam**