Instructor: Prof. Erin B. Kaheny  
Office: Bolton 638  
E-mail: ekaheny@uwm.edu  
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 12:30-1:30 pm and by appointment

Teaching Assistant (TA): Robert Machado  
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E-mail: rmachado@uwm.edu  
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 1:00-2:00 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This online course explores developments with respect to sex/gender and the law in select areas of employment, education, family, criminal, and constitutional law. Specific topics examined in the course include: equal employment opportunity, sexual harassment, affirmative action, educational opportunity, marriage and divorce, child custody, domestic violence, sexual assault, and reproductive rights. In this context, students will analyze court cases, statutes, and legal and social science scholarship.

COURSE PREREQUISITE
Junior or senior status

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

CLASS REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

General Class Conduct
It is imperative that you always maintain a professional tone in all online postings and that you keep your response in line with the question being asked. You should feel free to challenge the ideas expressed by those in the class, but discussion forums (described below) are not venues for personal attacks, non-scholarly commentary, or in which to share personal stories and experiences. The purpose of these online forums is to facilitate the discussion of jurisprudential and/or social science content only. Please take the time necessary to convey your ideas in a respectful and thoughtful manner and include only scholarly content in your posts, including peer response posts. Failure to do so will result in a significant deduction in your discussion postings grade.

It is your responsibility to abide by rules in the UWM Student Handbook. They should be followed with respect to all activities associated with this class, including online discussions and e-mail correspondence.
**Online Class Structure, Canvas, E-Mail Communication**

This is an online course, which will be administered via Canvas. The official time zone utilized to assess whether assignments, quizzes, and exams are submitted on time is the Central Time Zone. Please pay careful attention to the deadlines for the assignments and the designated time periods for course exams/quizzes. For the purposes of this class, instructional weeks begin each Monday and end on Sunday.

In addition, all students in this course are expected to check our course Canvas site as well as their UWM e-mail accounts daily for important messages and updates regarding this class. This should be done until your final grade is posted on PAWS. Please note that students should use their UWM e-mail accounts for all (e-mailed) correspondence regarding this class. I will only utilize your UWM e-mail address when responding to student inquiries or when sending class announcements via e-mail.

**Assigned Reading and Framing Notes**

Our class will center on the assigned reading of court cases and associated material from the Lindgren et al. text. As noted below, I have assigned reading for most weeks of the semester. Throughout the semester, I will post framing notes for the assigned reading associated with that week of class. These notes will be posted on Canvas and will highlight important themes, issues, and concepts in hopes of fitting the cases and other materials into a broader framework.

**Discussion Essays**

During select weeks this term (see schedule below), I will post a discussion question in the “Discussion Forums” section of our Canvas course page. Each student will be required to respond directly to the question that I pose during these weeks (“discussion essays”).

In this process, I expect you to seriously engage the assigned reading, do further substantive research (as requested), and develop thoughtful remarks to the questions I pose. These are essay assignments and, as such, they should be carefully crafted, well developed with a clear thesis statement, organized, and appropriately cited. These weekly essays will be assigned one of four grades (0, 50, 75, or 100%). In order to receive a 100%, you must submit a thoughtful response that thoroughly answers all parts of the question, is free of major grammatical and spelling errors, is of a scholarly nature with a highly professional tone, and does not veer from the topic of the question posed. Simple bullet point posts will not suffice for this purpose, and you will find yourself needing to write, on average, two to three solid paragraphs. Further, your writing should be free of any online jargon, abbreviated words, and contractions. Any reference to the assigned or outside reading must be properly cited with in-text parenthetical citations (and quotation marks, if necessary), and you should include a works cited list. If your post contains multiple writing problems (organizational and/or grammatical), does not directly answer the question or all parts of the question, is not adequately developed, and/or does not have a scholarly tone, it will not receive more than an “average” grade (i.e., a 75). Please do not post your response as an attachment.

Discussion essays must be posted to the applicable discussion forum no later than **Friday at 11:59 pm** of the relevant week of the discussion. For example, your response to Week 2’s discussion question must be posted no later than Friday, January 31 (by 11:59 pm). You should submit only one direct response to my discussion question for grading purposes each week (if you submit more than one, the first response will be graded). Late responses (even by one minute) to discussion questions will be assigned a grade of zero. However, I will drop your two (2) lowest “discussion essay” grades.
Responses to the Posts of Other Students (“Peer Response Posts”)
In two separate weeks this semester, you must also submit a response to a posting of another student. Specifically, your “peer response post” should take the major point a peer expressed in their post and elaborate on it or critique it in a substantive way (positive critique is welcome). You should not critique the writing or grammar of your peers in these response posts. You may respond to multiple postings in a given week, and you may respond to more than two student postings over the semester. However, the TA will only grade one of your peer response posts per week and a total of two “peer response posts” per student this semester. Thus, you must indicate which of your peer response posts you would like graded. In order to do this, you must include, “I submit this peer response post to be graded,” in the first line of the text in your peer response post. Responses to student postings (“peer response posts”) are due no later than Sunday at 11:59 pm of the relevant week of the discussion. For example, if you would like to submit a graded peer response post during Week 2, you must submit your peer response post no later than Sunday, February 2 by 11:59 pm. If you submit multiple peer response posts in a given week without clearly noting which one you would like graded, the TA will grade your first peer response post. If you submit more than two peer response posts over the semester and do not indicate which two you want graded, the TA will grade the first two peer response posts across separate weeks. Peer response posts will be assigned one of four grades (0, 50, 75, or 100%). Only those students who seriously engage the comments of another student in a meaningful and clear way (i.e., the student provides a well-developed response that is free of major spelling and grammatical errors) will receive full credit (i.e. 100%). Late peer response posts will receive a grade of zero.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to a Canvas setting that I plan on using this semester, you will only be able to reply to a thread once you have submitted your own post (that is, before you will be able to view a peer’s post and reply to it, you will first need to participate in that week’s discussion). Please plan accordingly!

Module Quizzes
In select weeks (please see schedule below), students will be required to take module quizzes. These will be very short quizzes (ten questions) over reading associated with select weeks of class (please see syllabus for material that could end up on a given module quiz). The questions will be multiple choice and true/false, and the quizzes will be conducted via Canvas in a timed setting.

Once you begin a quiz, you will have to complete it within the time limit (ten minutes). Thus, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have a stable Internet connection, a functional computer, and a proper testing environment before you begin a quiz. You should not take these online quizzes using a mobile device. In addition, while Canvas does include a countdown clock, all students assume responsibility to employ a separate countdown timer while taking online quizzes in this course to ensure accuracy of time remaining on the quiz. I do have access to quiz logs that provide an accurate accounting of time spent on a given quiz. This log will be the governing feature to determine whether a student was given enough time and submitted their quiz within the time limit.

Make-up opportunities on quizzes will be allowed under very limited circumstances. In order to qualify for a make-up opportunity, you will have to supply documentation that demonstrates that you were not able to take the quiz during the time frame offered due to an illness, family emergency, or a University-excused absence. Students who seek a make-up opportunity must make a reasonable effort to contact the instructor in a timely fashion (no later than 24 hrs. after the quiz period).
While collaboration with other students or individuals is strictly prohibited on module quizzes, I will permit students to consult their notes or the book. Note that doing so may result in your running out of time, so please prepare accordingly. In addition, students will be given two opportunities to take a module quiz within the quiz period. I will count the higher of the two scores in the calculation of student grades for that quiz. In addition, I will drop your one (1) lowest module quiz grade this semester. When applicable, module quizzes will be available on Canvas by Wednesday evening. Students will need to take and submit their quizzes by 11:59 pm on Friday.

**Legal and Social Science Research Assignment**
A legal and social science research assignment will be posted on our Canvas site by Monday, February 10 and will be due to Canvas on **Friday, February 21 by 11:59 pm.** Students are not to collaborate with peers or other individuals on the assignment. If you need help with the assignment, please ask the instructor or the TA!

**Debate Position (Research) Paper**
Each student will be required to submit one “position paper” in which they offer at least three well-developed (and thoroughly researched) arguments in relation to one of three legal policy questions. Students will be randomly assigned to one of three topics for this purpose (see syllabus schedule for paper due dates). Assigned topics will be posted by February 3 on our Canvas site. It is your responsibility to ensure that you submit a paper pertaining to your assigned topic on the date noted in this syllabus.

Students must undertake substantial scholarly research in preparing their papers and must properly integrate and cite this research in the body of their papers. **Any source used in the development of a student’s paper should be cited in the body of the paper using in-text parenthetical citations (wherever that source is used).** If you directly quote someone else’s language, you must indicate this by way of quotation marks around that language. Such quotations must also be followed (immediately) by a parenthetical citation that includes the page number on which this language may be found. If you are utilizing an idea from another source, you must still follow that idea immediately with a parenthetical citation! APA, MLA, or APSA styles are acceptable, but you should be consistent in the citation style you employ.

Each paper must also include a “works cited” list in which the student provides full reference information for all sources cited in the body of the paper. **All references in the “works cited” list must be cited in the body of the paper.** At least five scholarly works (beyond the textbook!) should be cited in your paper. For the purposes of this assignment, this includes books, peer-reviewed journal articles, and law review articles. While scholarly Web pages, newspaper articles, and court decisions may be consulted and referenced, they will **not** count toward the five required references. Substantial deductions will be applied to papers that do not use the requisite number of scholarly sources.

Your position paper should be approximately 6-8 pages long (12-point font, double-spaced, one-inch margins). The cover page, works cited list, and any tables/figures are not included in this page requirement. All pages must be numbered. Your position paper, which must be submitted as a Microsoft Word document or PDF file, will be due to Canvas by 11:59 pm on its due date (again, see syllabus schedule and associated handout on Canvas). Late deductions (see below) will apply for any paper received after that time.
Students will also be required to post their papers to a designated debate paper forum. This must be done by 11:59 pm on the paper’s due date.

**Exams**
There will be two exams in this course. Exam material will be drawn from the assigned reading or content, the framing notes, and any material presented or referenced via discussion forums. The exams will include short-essay questions and will be administered through our Canvas Web page in a timed setting.

Collaboration with other students or individuals is strictly prohibited on both exams in this course. If you consult any written or electronic sources or notes when answering the exam questions, they must be appropriately cited in your exam responses with in-text parenthetical citations, and you will need to submit a full works cited list with your exam. Note, however, that I do not want to see and will not give credit for lengthy passages that are directly quoted. In fact, direct quotations on exams should be, for the most part, non-existent or extremely limited in use! That is, while you may wish to cite the book, cases, or class notes for your paraphrased ideas, there should be no reason for your exam responses to include direct quotes (i.e., verbatim language) from another source. If you do directly quote language from another source, please make sure you provide quotation marks around that language (followed by an in-text parenthetical citation). Failure to do so is a form of plagiarism. However, even if you follow all proper citation practices, you will need to ensure that the vast majority of each of your exam responses is your own analysis and your own words in order to pass the exam!

The mid-term exam will be available online beginning **Monday, March 9 at 12:00 am until Tuesday, March 10 at 10:00 pm**. You may select the day and time in which you take the exam within this time frame. However, you will have only two hours in which to complete the exam, so please plan accordingly.

The final exam will be available online beginning **Monday, May 11 at 12:00 am until Tuesday, May 12 at 10:00 pm**. You may select the day and time in which you take the exam within this time frame. However, you will have only two hours in which to complete the exam, so please plan accordingly.

Please note that the final exam will not be cumulative in nature. It will emphasize material covered since the mid-term examination.

Once you begin an exam, you will have to complete the exam within a two-hour time limit. Thus, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have a stable Internet connection, a functional computer, and a proper testing environment before you begin the exam. You should also give yourself enough time to complete the exam prior to the exam window closing. You should not take these online exams using a mobile device. In addition, while Canvas does include a countdown clock, all students assume responsibility to employ a separate countdown timer while taking online exams in this course to ensure accuracy of time remaining on the exams. I do have access to a quiz log that provides an accurate accounting of time spent on exams. This log will be the governing feature to determine whether a student was given enough time and submitted their exam within the time limit.

Make-up examinations will be allowed under very limited circumstances. In order to qualify for a make-up exam, you must supply documentation that demonstrates that you were not able to take the exam during the time frame offered due to an illness, family emergency, or a University-excused absence.
Students who seek a make-up opportunity must make a reasonable effort to contact me in a timely fashion (no later than 24 hrs. after the last scheduled day of the exam).

**Grades**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Essays</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Response Posts</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module Quizzes</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debate Position Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal and Social Science Research Assignment</td>
<td>10%</td>
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**Point Scale**

- **A**: 93-100
- **A-**: 90-92
- **B+**: 87-89
- **B**: 83-86
- **B-**: 80-82
- **C+**: 77-79
- **C**: 73-76
- **C-**: 70-72
- **D+**: 67-69
- **D**: 63-66
- **D-**: 60-62
- **F**: ...-59

**Extra Credit and Curving Policy**

There will be no extra credit assignments in this course. Please get assistance from the instructor and/or TA if you are having difficulties with the course. I reserve the right to curve any components of the course and/or overall course grades, but doing so will be at my discretion. Therefore, there is no guarantee that any curves will be applied.

**Time Allocation**

This is a three-credit hour class. Students, on average, should expect to spend nine hours a week on activities related to POL SCI 464.

**Grading Concerns**

If you have questions or concerns regarding the grading of an assignment or exam, please contact the TA within one week of receiving the grade. If you are not satisfied with the TA’s response, please contact the instructor in a timely manner (i.e., within one week). You may request a re-grade of any assignment or exam in this course; however, I retain the right to raise or lower grades upon subsequent review. Please allow 7-10 days for turnaround time on all assignments and exams.

**Academic Misconduct and Collaboration Warning**

I do not tolerate acts of plagiarism or any forms of cheating. If I suspect a case of academic misconduct, I will follow the academic misconduct and reporting policies of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Collaboration with peers or any other individuals is not permitted on any assignment, quiz, or exam for this course. Any distribution or publication of exam or quiz questions can undermine the integrity of the online course and, thus, I consider such actions to be a form of academic misconduct as well.

**Dropping the Course & Incompletes**

Each student should become familiar with all relevant drop deadlines (please see the UWM calendar for further details). An incomplete may be given to a student who is unable to complete the course.
requirements due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., illness, injury, family emergency, etc.). Students seeking an incomplete must submit supporting documentation.

**Late Assignment Policy**
As noted above, late discussion essays and peer response posts will not be accepted for credit (they will be assigned a zero). Debate position papers and the legal/social science research assignment, however, will be graded if they are submitted after their due date/time. These assignments will be subject to a ten-percentage point deduction for each day they are late (including weekends). Waivers to the late policy will be considered if a student presents a legitimate excuse (per the instructor) in a timely manner (within 24 hours of the assignment’s due date). However, such waivers will only be given if the student provides supporting documentation surrounding the late assignment and so long as the assignment is submitted within a reasonable and agreed upon time with the instructor. Documentation is not necessary for the provision of religious accommodations, but notifications per UWM’s policy do apply (see link to the policy below).

**Technical Support**
I am not able to provide students with technical support. Please contact the UWM Help Desk at (414) 229-4040 or helpdesk@uwm.edu, if you run into any difficulties accessing/utilizing Canvas. Please do, however, also immediately notify me (the instructor) of any technical issues you encounter while taking this online course. Should you run into technical difficulties, you are advised to fully document your issues!

**Student PC/Internet Responsibility & Assignment/Response Submission Responsibility**
It is the student’s responsibility to ensure they have access to a functional PC and secure Internet connection for the duration of this online course. In order to minimize problems, students should give themselves plenty of time to submit assignments, quizzes, or exams (i.e., do not wait until the final hours or minutes to upload an assignment or take an exam or quiz). Make every effort to get your work in well before the deadline, so that you can get technical support from appropriate sources, if needed! Always electronically back up important class materials and assignments (e.g., course papers) so that you can access and submit them from a secondary device (e.g., a phone or campus PC), if needed!

It is the student’s responsibility to ensure they have successfully submitted and uploaded correct and intended assignments to the course Canvas site, and it is the student’s responsibility to ensure their intended text responses are successfully posted to a discussion forum or on an exam. Failure to do so may lead to significant deductions and, possibly, zero credit (see above sections for further details on exam and discussion post deadlines and late assignment policies). If a student fails to submit an intended document or fails to properly upload/post text in this online course, that is the student’s error, and the student assumes all grade consequences that arise from it regardless of when that error is recognized.

**Student Accommodations**
If you will need accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact me as soon as possible. Students should also contact an Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) counselor on campus at (414) 229-6287.

**Religious Accommodations**
I will follow UWM’s policy regarding the provision of religious accommodations. This policy can be found at: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm
Military Service
Please see the following link regarding accommodations for students who are called for military service:
http://www4.uwm.edu/academics/military.cfm

COURSE SCHEDULE
*READING AND TOPICS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

WEEK 1 (BEGINNING JANUARY 21): GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT
Read pgs. 1-31; 34-36
• No graded discussion essay or module quiz this week! Please post a (non-graded) introduction. Please also consult course content for a PowerPoint presentation on the judicial process and legal research.

WEEK 2 (BEGINNING JANUARY 27): EQUAL PROTECTION ANALYSIS I
Read pgs. 37-53
• Discussion essay due this week (submit by Friday, January 31 at 11:59 pm)

WEEK 3 (BEGINNING FEBRUARY 3): EQUAL PROTECTION ANALYSIS II
Read pgs. 53-61; 66-76; 32-33
• Module quiz #1 covering reading and notes for weeks 1, 2, and 3 (submit by Friday, February 7 at 11:59 pm)

WEEK 4 (BEGINNING FEBRUARY 10): EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY I
Read pgs. 77-99
• Discussion essay due this week (submit by Friday, February 14 at 11:59 pm)

WEEK 5 (BEGINNING FEBRUARY 17): EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY II
Read pgs. 100-133
• Module quiz #2 covering reading and notes for weeks 4 and 5 (submit by Friday, February 21 at 11:59 pm)
• Legal and social science research assignment due (submit by Friday, February 21 at 11:59 pm)

WEEK 6 (BEGINNING FEBRUARY 24): SEXUAL HARASSMENT
Read pgs. 134-165
• Discussion essay due this week (submit by Friday, February 28 at 11:59 pm)

WEEK 7 (BEGINNING MARCH 2): PAY EQUITY, FAMILY LEAVE, AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION
Read pgs. 165-184; 187-199
• Module quiz #3 covering reading and notes for weeks 6 and 7 (submit by Friday, March 6 at 11:59 pm)
**WEEK 8: MID-TERM EXAM**
The mid-term exam will be available online beginning **Monday, March 9 at 12:00 am until Tuesday, March 10 at 10:00 pm**.

**WEEK 9 (BEGINNING MARCH 16): SPRING BREAK**
- No assigned reading

**WEEK 10 (BEGINNING MARCH 23): EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY**
Read pgs. 200-233
- **DEBATE #1**: Topic TBA (Papers due to Canvas by Monday, March 23 at 11:59 pm. They should also be posted to this week’s debate papers forum by this date and time as well.)
- Discussion essay due this week (submit by Friday, March 27 at 11:59 pm)

**WEEK 11 (BEGINNING MARCH 30): MARRIAGE & FAMILY I**
Read pgs. 250-264
- Discussion essay due this week (submit by Friday, April 3 at 11:59 pm)

**WEEK 12 (BEGINNING APRIL 6): MARRIAGE & FAMILY II**
Read pgs. 295-308 and TBA
- Module quiz #4 covering reading and notes for weeks 10, 11, and 12 (submit by Friday, April 10 at 11:59 pm)

**WEEK 13 (BEGINNING APRIL 13): DIVORCE, CHILD CUSTODY, PARENTAL RIGHTS**
Read pgs. 272-295; 308-321
- **DEBATE #2**: TOPIC TBA (Papers due to Canvas by Monday, April 13 at 11:59 pm. They should also be posted to this week’s debate papers forum by this date and time as well.)
- Discussion essay due this week (submit by Friday, April 17 at 11:59 pm)

**WEEK 14 (BEGINNING APRIL 20): DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONTACT**
Read pgs. 264-272; 392-416
- Module quiz #5 covering reading and notes from weeks 13 and 14 (submit by Friday, April 24 at 11:59 pm)

**WEEK 15 (BEGINNING APRIL 27): REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS I**
Read pgs. 322-337
- **DEBATE #3**: TOPIC TBA (Those assigned papers this week must submit them to Canvas by Monday, April 27 at 11:59 pm. They should also be posted to this week’s debate papers forum by this date and time as well.)
- Discussion essay due this week (submit by Friday, May 1 at 11:59 pm)
**WEEK 16 (BEGINNING MAY 4): REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS II**
Read pgs. 337-355
- No discussion essay or module quiz this week!

**WEEK 17: FINAL EXAM**
The final exam will be available beginning Monday, May 11 at 12:00 am until Tuesday, May 12 at 10:00 pm.