

Syllabus: Special Education Law

Fall 2013

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I. Course Description

Course addresses the state and federal laws and regulations that govern the education of students with disabilities. Course will cover identification, evaluation, individualized education programs, placement, related services, assistive technology, discipline, enforcement, and remedies. This course will use a combination of lectures, class discussions, in-class exercises, and case studies.

II. Course Materials

- a. Special Education Law: Cases and Materials, **Author:** Weber, Mawdsley and Redfield Third ed.
- b. Texas Special Education Side by Side, available for free at <http://framework.esc18.net/Documents/Side-by-Side%20MAR%202012.pdf>.

III. Office Hours

One or both professors will be available on Mondays between 5:15 – 5:45pm in the student commons. For other appointment

IV. Class Attendance

The Law Center requires students to attend at least 80% of the scheduled classes. Any student who attends fewer than the minimum percentage of classes is to be automatically dropped from the class. We will take attendance by passing around a roll sheet at the beginning of each class. Each student should initial by his or her name. Initialing for another student is unacceptable. It is your responsibility to insure that you have initialed the roll sheet before we leave the classroom each day. This is particularly important if you arrive after class has begun.

V. Examination and Grading

The Final Exam is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18, 2013 from 6-8pm. Your grade in this course will be derived from your examination score. Grades will be adjusted up to one-half increment based on class participation and performance.

Course Outline

NOTE: Portions of this Course Outline may be altered or deleted depending upon the amount of material that we are able to cover during the semester.

Week	Topic	Reading Assignment
August 26, 2013	Overview	Pgs. 1 – top of 39 (stopping at 3. Education for all Children with Disabilities); download Side-by-Side Guide (see link in course materials on pg. 1 of syllabus)
September 02, 2013	Labor day - No class	No Assignment
September 09, 2013	Eligibility & Evaluation	Pgs. 55 – 100; 110 - 114; and Note 10, pgs. 123 – 126
September 16, 2013	Residency	Pgs. 127 – 155; McKinney Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvement Act (materials distributed in class)
September 23, 2013	Free, Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)	Pgs. 157 - 201
September 30, 2013	Individualized Education Program (IEP)	Pgs. 203 - 260
October 07, 2013	Placement, Least Restrictive Environment	Pgs. 261 - 291
October 14, 2013	Placement, Private Placements	Pgs. 525 – 546; <i>Student v. Houston ISD</i> , Docket No. 038-SE-1012, 4/5/2013, available at: http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4_wide.aspx?id=2147497854
October 21, 2013	Related Services & Assistive Technology	Pgs. 293 – 329; Side-By-Side Guide 34 C.F.R. §§300.5 – 300.6 (pg. A-3); 34 C.F.R. §300.105 (pg. B-10)
October 28, 2013	Student Discipline	Pgs. 409 – 437; Side-by-Side Guide TEX. ADMIN. CODE §89.1053 (pgs. D-40 – D-43)
November 04, 2013	Transition Services & Post Secondary Education	Pgs. 587 – 599 (skip <i>Lane v. Pena</i>); 636 (starting at Testing and Testing Accommodations) – 663; Side-by-Side Guide 34 C.F.R. §300.34 (pg. A-40)

November 11, 2013	IEP Meeting Role Play	Case file for IEP Meeting Role Play will be distributed in class
November 18, 2013	Settlement Negotiation Exercise with Guest Speaker	Pgs. 400 (starting at C. Issues Related to Settlement) – 406 (stopping at D. Appeals and Judicial Review); Texas Education Agency Dispute Resolution Systems Handbook, available at: http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147491399#P (scroll to Dispute Resolution Systems Handbook in index); case file for Settlement Negotiation Exercise will be distributed in class
November 25, 2013	Due Process Hearings	Pgs. 331 – 338; 348 (starting at 4. Burden of Persuasion) – 367 (stopping at <i>Florence v. Carter</i>); 388 (starting at <i>Draper V. Atlanta ISS</i>) – 400 (stopping at C. Issues Related to Settlement)
December 02, 2013	Other Court Proceedings	Pgs. 439 – 440; 450 (starting at B. Section 504 and ADA Claims) – 474; 485 (starting at D. Defenses) – 493