

**7397 WRS: Feminist Legal Theory  
Spring 2024**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

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**1. Overview and Course Objectives**

This seminar will provide students with an opportunity to learn about different strands of feminist legal theory and to examine emerging topics in modern feminism. Students will read several classics in feminist thought, analyzing their pre-suppositions about sex, sexuality, gender, power relations, and the role of law in constructing or de-constructing those ideas. We will then discuss modern feminist dilemmas and analyze how the various strands of feminist legal theory might explain, support, or attack them. This course fulfills the UHLC writing requirement, with students writing academic legal papers on a topic related to the seminar and that is at least 10,000 words, (including footnotes) or approximately 35 pages.

**2. Course Page**

This class will be managed online via Canvas. To access Canvas, click [here](#), or go to [access.uh.edu](http://access.uh.edu) and click on the Canvas icon. You should be automatically enrolled in this course.

- Your user name is your **CougarNetID@cougarnet.uh.edu**.
- Your password is your **CougarNet password**.

If you have trouble accessing Canvas, click [here](#) for help.

**3. Textbooks**

You do not need to purchase a textbook for this class. I have gathered a variety of law review articles, book chapters, news clippings, videos, and the like, and all required readings will be posted to Canvas.

I recommend the following additional materials as optional resources:

- Elizabeth Berenguer, *THE LEGAL SCHOLAR'S GUIDEBOOK* (Aspen Publishing 2020)
- Jessica Wherry & Kristin Murray, *SCHOLARLY WRITING: IDEAS, EXAMPLES, & EXECUTION* (Carolina Academic Press 3d ed. 2019)

#### 4. **Grading & Attendance**

Your grade in this class will be based on three things: class participation (10%), a final paper (75%), and an in-class presentation of your paper idea (15%).

Participation: All students are expected to have read all assigned materials in advance of each class meeting and to actively participate in each class. In addition, attending one-on-one conferences with me, turning in assignments and timely meeting deadlines are all part of your participation grade in this course.

Final paper: Each student must write a scholarly paper for this seminar about a legal topic related to feminist legal theory. Papers must be at least 10,000 words (including footnotes) and no more than 12,000 words. To help you structure your writing process, there are four important deadlines:

1. February 9 (by midnight): Deadline to submit précis (3 to 5 pages in length) describing the topic/legal question you have selected and supporting your thesis with at least 15 sources that you plan to use in your paper.
3. March 22 (by midnight): Deadline to submit draft of at least 5,000 words.
5. April 26 (by midnight): Final paper due (at least 10,000 words and no more than 12,000 words).

**Failure to meet these deadlines will result in a reduction of the final paper grade of between 10 percent and 50 percent, depending on severity.**

In-class presentation: During the final four classes of the semester, students will present the major findings of their papers to the class using PowerPoint. Presentations should be 10-15 minutes long, and we will have about 10 minutes of class discussion following each presentation.

**Attendance**: As a requirement for accreditation of law schools by the American Bar Association, regular and punctual class attendance is necessary. To fulfill this burden and foster a uniform and fair standard, UHLC requires that students must be present for 80% of the regularly scheduled sessions. UHLC professors have no discretion to waive this requirement. Please contact Professor Gomez if you anticipate you will be absent from class.

**Office Hours**: Mondays and Wednesdays at noon via Zoom; any other time on request.

#### 5. **Laptops and Electronic Devices**

Consistent with UHLC's computer use policy, improper use of a computer during class (including, but not limited to, composing, sending, or reading emails; instant messaging; searching or browsing the Internet; playing games; and/or viewing movies) may result in dismissal from the

class session or a reduction in your final grade. Unless you are instructed otherwise, please turn off cell phones and similar devices. See <http://www.law.uh.edu/jd/current/handbook.pdf>

The University of Houston is committed to student success and provides information to optimize the online learning experience through our [Power-On](#) website. Please visit this website for a comprehensive set of resources, tools, and tips including obtaining access to the internet, AccessUH, and Blackboard; requesting a laptop through the Laptop Loaner Program; using your smartphone as a webcam; and downloading Microsoft Office 365 at no cost. For questions or assistance contact [UHOnline@uh.edu](mailto:UHOnline@uh.edu).

Please check and use your CougarNet email for communications related to this course. Faculty use the CougarNet email to respond to course-related inquiries such as grade queries or progress reports for reasons of FERPA. To access your CougarNet email, login to your Microsoft 365 account with your CougarNet credentials. Visit University Information Technology (UIT) for instructions on how to connect your CougarNet e-mail on a mobile device.

## 6. **Honor Code and AI Generated Text**

The UHLC Honor Code applies to all aspects of this course. **You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code.** Please inquire if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code's provisions apply to specific activities or situations related to this course. Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you under the Honor Code to comply with the Honor Code in relation to this course and to comply with the instructions in the course syllabus.

The software technology known as artificial intelligence has recently expanded its capability to generate text (AI Generated Text). Examples of the technology include what are known as “generative” large language models (LLMs), and a specific implementation what is well known in the general public is ChatGPT. These systems can generate text in response to prompts and/or input of other text/documents/code/images. The output, the AI Generated Text, appears to have human-mimicking “intelligence” and is thus potentially usable as a substitute for written work product one might generate themselves. AI Generated Text can include computer code or programs as well as human language content.

Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you under the Honor Code to not prompt, generate, obtain, read, or use any AI Generated Text in relation to any activity or assessment in this course. This applies to AI Generated Text from yourself or others. This pledge includes that your assessment work product in the course is without any contribution from AI Generated Text. This specifically extends to the plagiarism policy and unauthorized aid/materials parts of the Honor Code: AI Generated Text will be treated as from another/other in applying the plagiarism policy to this course. The term “assessment” means any work product generated for this course that is submitted to the instructor or presented in a class session, regardless of whether it is graded content or not. Assessments include mid-terms and final exams. AI Generated Text may not be used in the development or drafting of any assessments created by you. The parts of the Honor Code that refer to unauthorized materials or aid are specifically prohibited from any use of AI Generated Text in this course unless specified by me on a particular assignment, for which you must strictly follow all instructions related to AI Generated Text.

## **7. Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids**

The University of Houston is committed to providing an academic environment and educational programs that are accessible for its students. Any student with a disability who is experiencing barriers to learning, assessment or participation is encouraged to contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center (Dart Center) to learn more about academic accommodations and support that may be available to them. Students seeking academic accommodations will need to register with the Dart Center as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation of approved accommodations. Please contact the Dart Center by visiting the website: <https://uh.edu/accessibility/> calling (713) 743-5400, or emailing [jdcenter@Central.UH.EDU](mailto:jdcenter@Central.UH.EDU).

## **8. Recording of Class**

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center. If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

## **9. Chosen Names and Preferred Pronouns**

I want to address each of you in a manner that corresponds to your identity. Although mistakes happen, chosen names and preferred pronouns—including non-binary ones such as they / them / their—must be respected in my classroom. Feel free to reach out to me at any time if you want to make me aware of your chosen name or preferred pronoun, or if you have concerns about how your classmates or I address you.

## **10. Mental Health and Wellness**

The University of Houston has a number of resources to support students' mental health and overall wellness, including CoogsCARE and the UH Go App. UH Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers 24/7 mental health support for all students, addressing various concerns like stress, college adjustment and sadness. CAPS provides individual and couples counseling, group therapy, workshops and connections to other support services on and off-campus. For assistance visit [uh.edu/caps](http://uh.edu/caps), call 713-743-5454, or visit a Let's Talk location in-person or virtually. Let's Talk are daily, informal confidential consultations with CAPS therapists where no appointment or paperwork is needed.

The Student Health Center offers a Psychiatry Clinic for enrolled UH students. Call 713-743-5149 during clinic hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment.

The A.D. Bruce Religion Center offers spiritual support and a variety of programs centered on well-being.

Need Support Now? - If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call CAPS crisis support 24/7 at 713-743-5454, or the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988, or chat 988lifeline.org.

### **11. Title IX and Sexual Misconduct Policies**

Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the Title IX website at <https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/>.

### **12. Security Escorts and Cougar Ride**

UHPD continually works with the University community to make the campus a safe place to learn, work, and live. The security escort service is designed for the community members who have safety concerns and would like to have a Security Officer walk with them, for their safety, as they make their way across campus. Based on availability either a UHPD Security Officer or Police Officer will escort students, faculty, and staff to locations beginning and ending on campus. If you feel that you need a Security Officer to walk with you for your safety, please call 713-743-3333. Arrangements may be made for special needs.

Parking and Transportation Services also offers a late-night, on-demand shuttle service called “Cougar Ride” that provides rides to and from all on-campus shuttle stops, as well as the MD Anderson Library, Cougar Village/Moody Towers and the UH Technology Bridge. Rides can be requested through the UH Go app. Days and hours of operation can be found at <https://uh.edu/af-university-services/parking/cougar-ride/>.

### **13. Syllabus Changes**

Notice of any changes will be announced as quickly as possible in class and via email.