DISABILITIES & THE LAW
Spring 2025
Draft – 10/29/2024 (Subject to Change)

Syllabus and Course Policies

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I. Introduction

Welcome to Disabilities and the Law! This semester, we will explore the social meaning of disability, along with the legal rights afforded by three key federal statutes:

(1) Americans with Disabilities Act
(2) Rehabilitation Act
(3) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

We want the class to be as engaging and as useful as possible. We encourage questions and welcome feedback. Please feel free to contact us with questions regarding the readings, your assignments, or just the course in general. We look forward to spending the semester with you!

II. Logistics

Course Reading

The textbook we will be using is by *Disability Law and Policy, 2nd Edition* by Peter Blanck (2024). We will also post supplemental materials and reviews on Canvas. You can log on through the Access UH website: https://accessuh.uh.edu/login.php.

Class Hours & Location

We will meet _____ of the Law Center. When you attend class, please also sign into Zoom. Our link for the semester is: _____. We will send a Passcode to the class before the first day. Please do not share this passcode with anyone.

Course Policies

Accommodations and Psychological Services:

If you have a disability and require an accommodation, please contact the Center for Students with Disabilities and forward the required documentation if you've not done so already. You can speak to us as well. All students should let us know what we can do to maximize your

learning potential, participation, and general access during this course. We want to make the course material accessible, and we want you to succeed as a student. If aspects of the course or the assignments pose accessibility problems, we can discuss alternatives.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the "Let's Talk" program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus: http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html.

Attendance:

To the extent possible, please attend all class sessions in-person for the entire class period. Falsifying attendance—such as signing the attendance form without attending class or attending remotely without notifying us first—violates the Law Center's Honor Code and is, therefore, grounds for disciplinary action.

Pursuant to the Law Center's policy, you must attend at least 80% of all class meetings; however, you should strive to attend 100%. In other words, you can miss no more than two classes. Missing more than two classes will result in your being dropped from the course. You can attend no more than four classes via Zoom, including any Zoom-only classes that we may need to schedule. Classes attended remotely do not count against your two absences.

Chosen Names and Pronouns:

We want to address each of you in a manner that corresponds to your identity. Although mistakes happen, all names and pronouns must be respected in our classroom. Please feel free to reach out to us at any time if you want to make us aware of your pronouns or chosen name or if you have concerns about how your classmates address you.

Course Website:

Course reading appears on Canvas. You can log on through the Access UH website located at https://accessuh.uh.edu/login.php.

Grading:

Students have the option to take this course pass/fail.

Learning Outcomes:

Over the course of the semester, students will: (1) familiarize themselves with various areas of federal disability law; (2) engage in legal analysis and reasoning across those areas; (3) think critically about the possible need for reform.

Sexual Misconduct:

The University is committed to maintaining and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from discrimination and sexual misconduct. If you have experienced an incident of discrimination or sexual misconduct, there is a confidential reporting process available to you. Please be aware that under the sexual misconduct policy, SAM 01.D.08, faculty are required to report to the University any information received regarding sexual misconduct as defined in the policy. As such, Law Center employees and faculty members are not confidential resources.

Zoom:

We will use Zoom this semester to record the class and to run in-class polls. When you attend class in person, please also sign on to Zoom muted with your camera off. You can attend class remotely for illness or other reasons up to six times this semester. Please let us know in advance if you need to attend remotely. As indicated above, if you have not gotten approval to attend remotely prior to the class, signing the attendance tracker constitutes falsifying attendance and is an Honor Code violation.

You are limited to four remote classes because, pursuant to ABA rules, if you attend more than one third of class sessions remotely, the class becomes an online course, which could jeopardize your ability to graduate on time.

We may need to further reduce this number over the course of the semester if emergency reasons, such as weather or Covid exposure, require us to meet over Zoom. Accordingly, you should reserve remote attendance for only when it is completely necessary.

III. Assessment Methods

This course has three key requirements: (1) preparing for and attending class sessions; (2) participating in class discussions; and (3) taking the final exam.

(1) **Attendance and Preparedness.** You should arrive on time and prepared for all our class sessions. As explained above, you may miss no more than two classes, pursuant to Law Center policy. If you wish to attend via Zoom, you must clear it with us in advance. While participating remotely does not count toward your two absences, you cannot Zoom in more than four times this semester. This number is subject to change based on extenuating circumstances. For further details, please refer to the Course Policies on Attendance and Zoom.

(2) Class Participation. You should be prepared for class and expect to be called on. Students with outstanding participation will be eligible for an upward adjustment of a partial letter grade

(3) Final Exam. You will complete a graded two-hour, in-class exam that will count as your final grade subject to the class participation grade adjustment. This will be a **CLOSED BOOK** exam. More details regarding the exam format and content will be discussed as the exam date approaches.

IV. Course Reading

These reading assignments are subject to change based on the pace of our discussion. We will announce any changes in class and by email.

Disability Law and Policy, 2nd Edition (2024)
https://faculty.westacademic.com/Book/Detail?id=345529

Week 1:	Chapters 1, 2	Intro
Week 2:	Chapters 3, 4	Definitions
Week 3:	Chapters 5, 6	ADA Title I

Week 4:	Chapters 7, 8	ADA Title I
Week 5:	Guest Lecturer on Employment	
Week 6:	Chapters 9, 10	ADA Title II
Week 7:	Continue discussion	ADA Title II
Week 8:	Chapters 11, 12	ADA Title III
Week 9:	Chapter 15	ADA and Internet
Week 10:	Guest Lecturers – U.S. Attorneys Office	
Week 11:	Chapter 13	IDEA
Week 12:	Chapter 14	Domestic Disability Law and Policy
Week 13:	Chapter 18	Sum up and closing

Final Exam – 2 hours