Syllabus – Statutory Interpretation and Regulation – Spring 2027
Course No: 5378 – Section # 12067 – 1st Year – Section B

Professor: Andrew Michaels – acmichaels@uh.edu
Class Meeting Time: MW 9-10:30AM
Class Location: TBD
Office: 430H

Course Tutors:
Hannah Cobb (hcobb@CougarNet.UH.EDU)
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Required Texts:

Eskridge, Gluck, Nourse, *Statutes, Regulation, and Interpretation: Legislation & Administration in the Republic of Statutes* (2nd. Ed. 2024) (ISBN: 9781647089009) (https://faculty.westacademic.com/Book/Detail?id=336290)

Other readings may come from cases or articles that you should be able to easily find on lexis / westlaw or online, and/or will be posted to canvas.

Grading:
Your grade will be based primarily on an open-materials final examination to be administered during the Law Center scheduled examination period for this class. Open-materials means any non-interactive, non-electronic materials prepared by you and/or others, including traditional study guides available for purchase, and outlines from other students. Although your exam score will largely determine your grade, I reserve the discretion to adjust your grade up or down by a third of a letter grade to reflect course attendance, preparation, and performance.

You are generally expected to attend, prepare for, and participate in class. I will divide the class into three on-call panels. When your panel is on call, you should be prepared to be called on. Typing my questions into an AI tool and reading me what it spits out will not be considered satisfactory participation. You are of course welcome and encouraged to participate even when not on call.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you comply with the Law Center attendance policy. The class is generally scheduled to meet in person. There may be some adjustments to this general schedule as necessary. Zoom attendance is not generally an option on the days that we are in person.

CAPS: 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

The Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program ("TLAP") also supports law students who are dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and other mental health problems. You can reach TLAP at any time at 1-800-343-8527. TLAP's website includes a page with links to sources about mental health that are of interest to law students: https://www.tlaphelps.org/law-students.

Learning outcomes: Through and as a result of this course, students will learn how to think about interpreting statutes, and generally improve their legal reading and reasoning skills, as well as learn some of the basics of administrative law.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Wellness: This is an inclusive learning space. At UHLC, we are committed to ensuring inclusive online and classroom learning spaces, where you'll be treated with respect and dignity, and where everyone is provided the equitable opportunity to participate, to contribute, and to succeed. In this course, all students are welcome regardless of socio-economic status, age, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, national origin, veteran's status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, political affiliation, marital status and other diverse identities that we each bring to class. Our class is richer for this diversity. Inclusive learning spaces facilitate the innovation and creative thought that enhance student success. This success arises from the participation, support, and understanding of you and your colleagues. I encourage you to speak up and to share your views, but also understand that you are doing so in a learning environment in which we're all expected to engage respectfully and with regard to the dignity of all others. If you feel like your class performance is impacted in any way by your experiences inside or outside of class, please reach out to me. I want to be a resource for you. If you feel more comfortable speaking with someone besides me, Student Services is an excellent resource: 713-743-2182. Finally, I encourage you to bring any issues negatively impacting UHLC's openness to diversity and inclusion to the Law Center's Diversity and Inclusion committee. The D&I committee's charge includes "[building] on the Law Center's strengths as a diverse and inclusive environment." You can contact the committee directly at UHLCD&I@uh.edu. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of this course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

Accessibility and Accommodations: UHLC is committed to ensuring that all students enjoy equal access and full participation. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on a disability (including any chronic or temporary medical or mental health condition), please feel free to reach out to me so that we may discuss options. If you require any support services, you may contact Ms. Samantha Ary, Academic Records Coordinator. Ms. Ary is located in room 44A TU-II in the Office of Student Services suite, and she can be reached at sary@central.uh.edu or 713-743-7466. Requests for accommodation that involve graded assignments must be directed to Ms. Ary and should be made as soon as possible to allow adequate time to document and to process the request. If you observe religious or cultural holidays that will coincide with synchronous class sessions or conferences, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we may make arrangements.

UHLC Honor Code: The UHLC Honor Code applies to all aspects of my class. *You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code*. Please ask me if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code's provisions apply to specific activities or situations related to my course. *It is an Honor Code violation to review the graded assignments distributed to, or written by, any of my students from prior years.*

Anti-Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policies: UHLC and the University of Houston are 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, a confidential reporting process is available to you. For more information, please refer to the University System's Anti-Discrimination Policy SAM 01.D.07 and Sexual Misconduct Policy SAM 01.D.08. Please be aware that under the sexual misconduct policy, SAM 01.D.08, faculty and other University employees are required to report to the University any information received regarding sexual misconduct as defined in the policy. Due to this reporting requirement, faculty members and other employees are not a confidential resource. The reporting obligations under the sexual misconduct policy extends to alleged conduct by University employees and students.

Other UH Resources:

- Diversity and Inclusion Statement
- Non-Discrimination Statement
- Center for Diversity and Inclusion
- Center for Students with DisABILITIES
- LGBTQ Resource Center

- Cougars in Recovery
- Counseling and Psychological Services (see Section XIII)
- Veterans Services
- Cougar Cupboard
- CoogsCare (student assistance resources)
- DACA: What You Need to Know
- Student Health Center
- Wellness

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 Center for Students with DisABILITIES. 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.

Syllabus Changes: Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Such modifications may include changes to the mode(s) of assessment for the course. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through (specify how students will be notified of changes).

Helpful Information

COVID-19 Updates: https://uh.edu/covid-19/

Coogs Care: https://www.uh.edu/dsaes/coogscare/

Laptop Checkout Requests:
https://www.uh.edu/infotech/about/planning/offcampus/index.php#do-you-need-a-laptop

Health FAQs: https://uh.edu/covid-19/faq/health-wellness-prevention-faqs/

Student Health Center: https://uh.edu/class/english/lcc/current-students/student-healthcenter/index.php

Face Covering Policy To reduce the spread of COVID-19, the University strongly encourages everyone (vaccinated or not) to wear face coverings indoors on campus including classrooms for both faculty and students.

Presence in Class Your presence in class each session means that you:
o Are NOT exhibiting any Coronavirus Symptoms that makes you think that you may have COVID-19
o Have NOT tested positive or been diagnosed for COVID-19
o Have NOT knowingly been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or suspected/presumed COVID-19

If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms that are not clearly related to a pre-existing medical condition, do not come to class. Please see Student Protocols for what to do if you experience symptoms and Potential Exposure to Coronavirus for what to do if you have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. Consult the (select: Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy or Graduate Excused Absence Policy) for information regarding excused absences due to medical reasons.

COVID-19 Information Students are encouraged to visit the University's COVID-19 website for important information including on-campus testing, vaccines, diagnosis and symptom protocols, campus cleaning and safety practices, report forms, and positive cases on campus. Please check the website throughout the semester for updates. Vaccinations Data suggests that vaccination remains the best intervention for reliable protection against COVID-19. Students are asked to familiarize themselves with pertinent vaccine information, consult with their health care provider. The University strongly encourages all students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated.

Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids The University of Houston complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for disabled students. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, UH strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an academic adjustments/auxiliary aid, please contact the Justin Dart Jr. Student Accessibility Center (formerly the Justin Dart, Jr. Center for Students with DisABILITIES).

Statement on use of Artificial Intelligence

General. Generative artificial intelligence is a form of machine learning that creates new and original output based on the data it has been trained on or has access to, employing algorithms to generate content in response to prompts. Examples of the technology include what are known as generative "large language models" (LLMs). Two well-known LLM implementations are ChatGPT and Claude. LLM output can include text, images, music, code, and more. This syllabus policy covers the textual output of generative LLMs (AI-Generated Text)—which can include computer code or programs and human-language content. Because AI-Generated Text can often mimic human intelligence, it could potentially be used as a substitute for a student's own work product. Such use is potentially problematic to the extent that it becomes a substitute for internalized student understanding of the material or creates a dependency on AI-Generated Text, which may be strictly prohibited in settings that include the bar examination.

Prohibition. Subject to the exceptions immediately below, your continuing enrollment in this course constitutes your pledge not to generate or to use any AI-Generated Text—whether from yourself or others—in relation to any assessment in this course. The term "assessment" means any graded or ungraded work product for this course that is submitted to the instructor, presented in a class session, or used in an oral or written graded assessment for this course.

Exceptions.

The following AI-Generated Text uses are exceptions to the preceding prohibition. The exceptions' intent is to allow the generation and use of AI-Generated Text for specific, narrowly defined activities related to this course.

- You may generate and use AI-Generated Text for class preparation, although you must disclose the full extent of that use if your professor asks. You may generate and use AI-Generated Text for study supplements to aid with general understanding of course content. This could take different forms that include creating examples or explanations of a concept, generation of diagrams and flow charts, "gamification" of course content, flash cards for study, or sample questions and answers.
- You may generate and use AI-Generated Text for an outline that summarizes the course content.
- You may use AI-Generated Text to check your originally drafted text for misspellings, grammar and punctuation errors, strength and clarity of prose, verbosity, effective transitional language and thesis sentences, word choice, excessive passive voice, and like things.
- You may use AI-Generated Text for the purpose of language translation