**Poverty, Health, and Law**

**University of Florida Levin College of Law**

**Fall 2024 Syllabus**

**Law 6936**

**2.0 Credit Hours**

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**Office Hours:** Wed. & Thurs. from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**Meeting Time:** Thursday 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM

**Location:** Holland Hall 285

**Course Description:**

This seminar examines the critical intersection of health and poverty law, focusing on the impact of legal frameworks on medical care for economically disadvantaged populations. Students will engage with key policies, case law, and selected texts to understand the complex relationship between health and poverty. This seminar utilizes interactive discussions, case studies, and policy analysis to explore legal and social issues affecting access to healthcare for low-income individuals. By the end of this seminar, students will gain a broad understanding of how law influences healthcare outcomes for the poor.

**Student Learning Outcomes**:

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Critically analyze and evaluate the legal frameworks that govern healthcare access for economically disadvantaged populations. This includes understanding key policies, statutes, and case law that impact healthcare delivery and quality for low-income individuals.
2. Demonstrate the ability to apply relevant case law and policies to real-world scenarios through interactive discussions and case studies.
3. Understand the social determinants of health and how they intersect with legal issues.
4. Articulate how factors such as housing, education, and income influence healthcare access and quality for low-income individuals.

**Required Course Materials**:

*Poverty, Health and Law: Readings and Cases for Medical-Legal Partnership*

ISBN: 978-1594607790

Authors: Elizabeth Tobin Tyler, Ellen Lawton, Kathleen Conroy, et al.

Edition: 1st

<https://www.amazon.com/Poverty-Health-Law-Medical-Legal-Partnership/dp/1594607796>

Note: Please be sure to register for the Canvas course and have any required materials with you in print or easily accessible electronic form in class. You are responsible for checking your Canvas page and the e-mail connected to the page on a regular basis for any class announcements or adjustments.

**Grades:**

Regular attendance, preparation, and active participation in classroom discussion are required. Your grade in the course will be based on your research paper, with potential adjustment based on your attendance and participation.

Students will write a paper that will need to be at least 25 pages of double-spaced, 12-point text or the equivalent and based on your own research. The final research papers must be submitted by the due date to receive credit in the course. Additional details and deadlines will be provided in the first couple weeks of the course.

**Advanced Writing Requirement**:

This seminar is structured in such a way as to satisfy the College of Law’s Advanced Writing Requirement. According to the Faculty Handbook, “All J.D. candidates must complete—under close faculty supervision—a major, written product that shows evidence of original scholarship based on individual research. Students often satisfy this requirement in a seminar course. If fulfilled in an advanced course, the required writing may take the form of one or a number of finished written products that together demonstrate these qualities. The general standard for fulfillment of the advanced writing requirement is one or more papers that are cumulatively at least 25 pages of double-spaced, 12-point text or the equivalent.”

**Attendance:**

Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. Students are allowed **two absences** during the course of the semester. Students are responsible for ensuring that they are not recorded as absent if they come in late. A student who fails to meet the attendance requirement will be dropped from the course. The law school's policy on attendance can be found [here](https://www.law.ufl.edu/uf-law-student-handbook-and-academic-policies#:~:text=co%2Dcurricular%20activities.-,Attendance,regular%20and%20punctual%20class%20attendance.&text=UF%20Law%20policy%20permits%20dismissal,of%2012%20credits%20per%20semester.).

**ABA Out of Class Hours Requirements:**

ABA Standard 310 requires that students devote 120 minutes to out-of-class preparation for every “classroom hour” of in-class instruction. Each weekly class is approximately 2 hours in length, requiring at least **4 hours of preparation** outside of class including reading the assigned materials, writing critical analyses, and developing your final paper.

**Additional Information**:

Other information about UF Levin College of Law policies, including compliance with the UF Honor Code, Grading, Accommodations, Class Recordings, and Course Evaluations can be found at this [link.](https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/427635/files/74674656?wrap=1)

**Recordings of Class:**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor and Student Conduct Code.

**Health and Wellness Resources**:

Law school can be a daunting experience, especially when life outside the law becomes challenging. UF Law provides numerous resources for your support, and I encourage you to seek help if you have concerns. Any student who has difficulty accessing sufficient food or lacks a safe place to live is encouraged to contact the Office of Student Affairs. If you are comfortable doing so, you may also notify me so that I can direct you to further resources.

* *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in crisis, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu,](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) (352) 392-1575 (available 24/7), or visit the [U Matter, We Care website](https://umatter.ufl.edu/) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in crisis.
* *Counseling and Wellness Center*: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](https://counseling.ufl.edu/) or call (352) 392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
* *Student Health Care Center*: Call (352) 392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website.](https://shcc.ufl.edu/)
* *University Police Department*: [Visit UF Police Department website](https://police.ufl.edu/) or call (352) 392- 1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
* *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call

(352) 733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](https://ufhealth.org/locations/uf-health-shands-emergency-room-trauma-center/).

**COURSE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

This syllabus is offered as a guide to the direction of the course. Our pace will depend in part on the level of interest and the level of difficulty of each section and is subject to change.

**Weeks 1-2: Social Drivers, Health Disparities, and Role of Law**

* **Read:** Chapter 1
* **Review:** Course themes, key concepts and objectives
* **Read:** Woolf et al., How are Income and Wealth Linked to Health and Longevity? (Urban Institute 2015)
* **Watch:**https://www.ted.com/talks/rishi\_manchanda\_what\_makes\_us\_get\_sick\_look\_upstream?trigger=5s
* **Read:** Undoing the Drivers of Health Inequity

**Weeks 3-4**: **Understanding the Healthcare System in the United States**

* **Read:** Chapter 2
* **Review:** Affordable Care Act
* **Watch:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yN-MkRcOJjY>
* **Watch:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0OtUbDYdxw>
* **Due:** Research Paper Topic

**Week 5**: **Income and Health: Dynamics of Employment and the Safety Net**

* **Read:** Chapter 7
* **Review:** Social Security Act
* **Review:** TANF

**Week 6**: **Intersectionality of Race, Health, and Poverty**

* **Watch:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1a1YcYdIVFg>
* **Read:** Tuskeegee Syphilis Study
* **Read:** *Simkins v. Moses H*
* **Read:** Yearby, Ruqaiijah, Crystal N. Lewis, Keon L. Gilbert, Kira Banks. 2020. “Racism is a Public Health Crisis.” The Justice Collaborative Institute, Saint Louis University.
* **Watch:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1O7Ov1nxMc0>
* **Due:** Final Paper Outline

**Weeks 7-8: Healthcare Access**

* **Read:** Chapter 19
* **Review:** Affordable Care Act & Medicaid Act
* **Read:** *National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius*
* **Watch:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBr3fniyb4w>

**Week 9**: **Housing: The intersection of affordability, safety and health**

* **Read:** Chapter 8
* **Review:** Fair Housing Act
* **Watch:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNzFnHL-8Zk
* **Watch**:https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NY4Q8XQ0n6E&index=13&list=PLZapTuSHtuCeejcJGLVBLqNT-ipS0Idh
* **Due**: Final Paper Rough Draft

**Week 10: Education: Connecting Health and Quality Learning Opportunities**

* **Read:** Chapter 9
* **Review:** Appendix 9.1
* **Review:** IDEA & Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act
* **Read:** *Brown v. Board of Education*
* **Read:** <https://www.apha.org/-/media/files/pdf/factsheets/health_and_educational_equity.pdf>

**Week 11:** Adolescent health and Legal Rights

* **Read:** Chapter 15
* **Review:** EPSDT mandate
* **Read:** <https://www.apha.org/-/media/Files/PDF/topics/equity/Opportunity_Youth.pdf>

**Week 12**: Strategies for Policy Change and Impact Litigation

* **Read:** Chapter 16
* **Review:** 42 U.S. Code Section 1983
* **Read:** Strategies for Equitable Policymaking
* **Review:** Hammond, *Litigating Welfare Rights*
* **Due: Final Research Paper**