

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION LAW
(Spring 2017-Wednesday Class)

Instructor: James M. Cooney, Esq.

Rutgers University, Labor Studies & Employment Relations Department, SMLR

Course #37:575:316:03 (3 Credits)

Wednesdays, 9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Class Location: Cook-Douglass Lecture Hall, Room 110, Douglass/Cook Campus

Tel: 848-932-8560; E-mail: jacooney@rutgers.edu

Office Hours: Before & after class or by appointment

Course Description: This course will survey the various laws that protect workers from discrimination based on protected categories including race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, and disability. The course will also introduce students to the court system and to forums and procedures for litigating employment discrimination claims.

Learning Objectives: The student is able to:

Labor Studies & Employment Relations Department:

-Apply employment relations legal concepts, and substantive institutional knowledge, to understanding contemporary developments related to work. (Goal 2)

School of Management & Labor Relations:

-Demonstrate an understanding of how to apply knowledge necessary for effective work performance. (Goal VI)

Additional Course Objective(s) from the Instructor:

-Demonstrate basic knowledge of employment discrimination laws and policies.

-Demonstrate ability to comprehend court decisions on employment discrimination law issues.

-Apply employment discrimination law concepts to a given fact pattern.

Grading Criteria:*

(1) Mid-term Exam (50%)

(2) Final Exam (50%)

(*Credit is also earned for attendance and in-class contributions)

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. Please note that excessive unexcused absences will lower your grade. Unexcused absences in excess of 3 classes may result in a failing grade. Students arriving late to class, or departing class early, must sign-in/out with a TA.

Course Materials: Course reading materials are found in the Sakai Resources and Announcements section. The Instructor reserves the right to supplement, substitute, and/or modify the listed reading selections.

Academic Records Retention: Exams, papers, and any other items submitted by students for grading are retained for 2 years before shredding and disposal. Any student wishing to review any such item must make a request prior to that time.

Academic Integrity: The conduct of all students is governed by the Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy:
http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

Laptops/Cell Phones: Students are permitted to bring and use laptop computers in class, for taking notes and viewing class readings. However, please do not engage in laptop-related activities that may distract other students. Students should refrain from texting while in class. Points may be deducted from the grades of students who consistently violate the foregoing policy.

Recording: Students are not permitted to videotape or otherwise record any classroom lecture or activity, absent prior express consent and authorization by the Instructor.

Class Schedule:

JAN. 18: Course Overview

NO READINGS

JAN. 25: -How to Read & “Brief” Cases
-Federal & State Court Systems
-Anatomy of an Employment Discrimination Lawsuit
-Remedies

READINGS:

“Understanding the Federal Courts” (U.S. Courts.gov)
“Welcome to the NJ Court System” (N.J. Judiciary website)
“Remedies” (E.E.O.C. Website)

FEB. 1: -Reconstruction Civil Rights Act (Sections 1981 & 1983)

READINGS:

Saint Francis College v. Al-Khazraji
Patterson v. McLean Credit Union
Robinson v. City of Pittsburgh

FEB. 8: -Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Title VII”)
-Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (“EEOC”)
-Sex Discrimination & Harassment

READINGS:

Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins
Jespersen v. Harrah's Operating Co., Inc.
"Facts About Sexual Harassment" (EEOC Website)
Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson

FEB. 15: -Race & Color Discrimination

READINGS:

"Facts About Race/Color Discrimination" (EEOC Website)
Chaney v. Plainfield Healthcare Center
Barrett v. Whirlpool

FEB. 22: -National Origin Discrimination
-Citizenship Requirements
-Religious Discrimination

READINGS:

EEOC v. Sephora USA, LLC.
Espinoza v. Farah Mfg. Co.
TWA v. Hardison

MAR. 1: MIDTERM EXAMINATION

MAR. 8: -Disability/Handicap Discrimination
-Rehabilitation Act of 1973
-Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA")

READINGS:

Arline v. School Board
Chevron v. Echazabal
Viscik v. Fowler Equipment Co.

MAR. 15: NO CLASS (Spring Break)

MAR. 22: -Movie: "Philadelphia"

NO READINGS

MAR. 29: -Equal Pay Act ("EPA")
-Age Discrimination in Employment Act ("ADEA")

READINGS:

Ledbetter v. Goodyear
O'Connor v. Consolidated Coin Caterers Corp.

APRIL 5: -Pregnancy Discrimination Act (“PDA”)
 -Retaliation
 -Height & weight restrictions

READINGS:

International Unions v. Johnson Controls, Inc.
Thompson v. North American Stainless, LP
Dothard v. Ralinson

APRIL 12: -Waiver & arbitration of discrimination claims

READINGS:

Rodriguez v. Raymours Furniture Co., Inc.
14 Penn Plaza LLC v. Pyett

APRIL 19: -Credit and background checks
 -Drug and alcohol use

READINGS:

El v. Southeastern PA Transit
Raytheon v. Hernandez

APRIL 26: FINAL EXAM (not cumulative)

(Date revised: 01/10/2017)