FAMILY LAW: The Legal Ordering of Intimate Relations
Fall 2010
Monday 6:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Professor Washington – Georgia State University College of Law

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Office Hours: Monday 10:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. and by appointment


Course Requirements: You are expected to complete the assigned readings for each class, to attend class on time, and to participate consistently and meaningfully in class discussions, group projects, presentations and assigned case problems. Students who are more than 10 minutes late will be considered absent. Students with more than two (2) unexcused absences will not be permitted to sit for the final examination. An absence will be considered unexcused if a student does not inform me of their absence in advance of class. The Queries that accompany each reading assignment provide you with some overarching themes to consider as you read the assigned cases, notes and essays. Reading assignments will be dictated by the pace of class discussion. This syllabus provides a general road map of course coverage. Modifications may be necessary.

Grades: Your final grade for the course will be based on your final exam performance at the end of the semester.

The use of any taping or recording device of any kind including but not limited to: Skype technology, video and audio recording, is strictly prohibited in class. Violation of this policy constitutes breach of the Georgia State Honor Code.
# READING ASSIGNMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Queries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 16</td>
<td>Introduction; Defining Family</td>
<td>1-56</td>
<td>What is the legal definition of “family?” Does the definition of family depend upon the context within which it is being considered? Is it possible to devise an absolute definition of family appropriate to all contexts and reflective of all relationships? Should the state acknowledge the family as an entity or institution within its authority to govern/sanction? Why? Why not? What exactly are “good ole’ fashioned family values” and of what relevance are they to government prerogatives and functions? Consider the legal, cultural, religious and economic implications of and motivations for a unified and state-guided conception of family.</td>
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