COURSE NAME: Law & Poverty

CATALOGUE NUMBER: 8769

PROFESSORS: Barbara Glesner Fines

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES:
Demonstrated interest in subject matter and willingness to work hard.

COURSE BOOKS:


Additional course materials to be distributed via course webpage

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:

Letter grades based on class preparation and participation (25%) and EITHER
- Research paper,
- Service learning project, OR
- Final examination

For more information see http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/profiles/glesnerfines/bgf-pov.htm

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Surveys significant issues in poverty law and policy. The course will examine the poverty, poverty programs, access to the civil justice system and the changing nature of poverty law practice. Students will examine the areas of civil law most commonly addressed in poverty law practice, including access to income, employment, food, housing, child care and support, and health and legal services.

This course satisfied the jurisprudence requirement.

The paper for this course may not be used to satisfy the research and writing requirement. However, students desiring to expand one of their papers to write an R&W on the subject may do so by enrolling in Law 746 for 2 credit hours with permission of the instructor.

COURSE CONTENT:

Poverty: demographics & perspectives
History of poverty law in the United States
Competing policy perspectives
Representing the low-income client
Access to Justice
Constitutional standards (Due process & Equal protection)
Welfare & Welfare Reform
The working poor – employment law issues
Poverty and families
Housing and homelessness
Health care
Consumer Law
Public Education and Law

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:

This class is well suited for students who plan to work in public interest law through legal services, non-profits or the government. It is useful for students who will join firms and hope to participate in law firm pro bono projects. Students who plan to be active on community boards or in elected or appointed offices may find this information useful. It is meant to expose students to a very wide variety of topics within poverty law and give students the means to do more detailed work in the areas that they find particularly interesting.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MO/MULTI-STATE BAR EXAMINATION PREPARATION:

This is not a bar review course; this course prepares students for the practice of law after they have passed the bar examination