

Animal Law and Policy Seminar

Syllabus – Fall 2015

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This seminar will meet on Mondays from 5:00-6:40 p.m. The required texts are Randall S. Abate, *WHAT CAN ANIMAL LAW LEARN FROM ENVIRONMENTAL LAW?* (2015), Sonia Faruqi, *PROJECT ANIMAL FARM* (2105), and Moby & Miyun Park, *GRISTLE* (2010). The recommended text is Fajans & Falk, *SCHOLARLY WRITING FOR LAW STUDENTS* (4th ed. 2011). Materials posted on TWEN will supplement the readings.

Course Description: This course addresses select issues in how U.S., foreign domestic, and international laws regulate animals. Topics will include legal and ethical issues relating to the classification of animals as “property,” environmental and animal welfare aspects of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), standing and other legal obstacles involved in litigating on behalf of animals, breed specific legislation, international law dimensions of animal welfare protection, and environmental laws addressing endangered and other protected species. The course also addresses animal welfare laws in the U.S. and compares the strengths and weaknesses of the U.S.’s approaches with other countries’ initiatives to promote animal welfare.

Grading:

Course grades will be determined on the basis of a seminar paper (100%) that must be a **minimum of 30 pages**. Class participation will be considered in determining course grades. Class participation includes attendance, the quality of students’ presentations, and the quality of students’ contributions to class discussions and exercises. Exceptionally strong participation will raise your grade one “step” (*e.g.*, from a B to a B+) and below average participation will reduce your grade one step (*e.g.*, from a B to a B-).

Class Preparation Policy:

Most of the classes will be conducted in lecture/discussion format and will address: (1) the fundamentals of U.S. animal law, (2) international and foreign domestic laws addressing animal welfare and rights, and (3) the intersection between animal law and environmental and the common objectives that these two movements share. Discussion questions will be posted in advance of class to help students focus on extracting the most relevant information from the readings and to form a framework for class discussion. Students are expected to be well prepared and actively engaged in the class discussions.

Out of Class Consultation:

My office is #342. All students will meet with me for two required individual meetings in my office to discuss their outlines and first drafts of their papers. In addition, I encourage students to

consult with me regularly via e-mail or office visits to address questions on their papers. I am available to meet with students by appointment or drop-by visits.

Attendance Policy:

Class attendance is required by ABA accreditation standards. An attendance sheet will be circulated in each class. In accordance with the College of Law's accreditation requirements, students who miss more than 20% of the scheduled class meetings (three classes) will not receive credit for the course. Attendance includes the obligation to appear for class on time and to satisfactorily complete reading assignments prior to class. **Unexcused tardiness will be accumulated to constitute additional absences.**

Reading Assignments:

Week 1
8/10 **Course Overview / Introduction to Animal Law and Policy: Property and Personhood.** Assignment: Read *Tilikum v. Seaworld*.

Week 2
8/17 **Dichotomies in Animal Welfare Protections: Kangaroos, Whales, and Standing.** Assignment: Abate, chs. 9, 13.

Week 3
8/24 **Breed Specific Legislation Roleplay Exercise.**
Assignment: Materials on TWEN.

Week 4
8/31 **Food Choices, Health, and Animal Welfare.** Assignment: Read *Gristle*.
Guest Speakers: *Anjali Sareen, Esq. and Alek Abate.*

Week 5
9/7 **No Class. Labor Day.**

Week 6
9/14 **Florida Dimensions of Animal Law and Policy.**
Assignment: Abate, ch. 2, 14. Guest Speaker: *Ralph DeMeo, Esq.*

Week 7
9/21 **Promoting Sustainable Management of Fisheries.**
Assignment: Abate, ch. 8. Guest Speaker: *Prof. Keith Rizzardi.*

Week 8
9/28 **Farm Animals and Animal Welfare: Comparative Law Perspectives.**
Assignment: Abate, ch. 4; Faruqi, chs. 1 and 2.

Week 9
10/5 **International Law Dimensions of Animal Welfare Protection.**
Assignment: Abate, chs. 11, 12, and 15. Guest Speaker: *Julia Hathaway.*

<u>Week 10</u> 10/12	Animal Welfare and Invasive Species Management. <u>Assignment:</u> Abate, ch. 14.
<u>Week 11</u> 10/19	Student Presentations.
<u>Week 12</u> 10/26	Student Presentations.
<u>Week 13</u> 11/2	Student Presentations.
<u>Week 14</u> 11/9	Course Evaluations / Student Presentations.
<u>Week 15</u> 11/16	Student Presentations* (Need to move final class up to 11/11 or 11/12)

Schedule of Important Dates

Aug. 17 – Proposed Paper Topics

Sept. 3 – Thesis Statements and Outlines

Sept. 24 – First Drafts Due

Oct.-Nov. – Student Presentations

Nov. 23 – Final Papers Due

Seminar Paper Presentations

- Student presentations will fill the last 5 classes of the semester (3 per class).
- On the Friday before their presentations, students will submit background reading and viewing materials (video clips) to share with the class to prepare for the presentations.
- Students will submit a draft of their Powerpoint slides to me for review at least 24 hours prior to their scheduled presentation.
- Student presentations will run for 20 minutes each with 10 minutes reserved after each presentation for Q & A.

Out-of-Class Activities (Required)

- Prof. Anderson's lecture - Research Strategies and Resources (TBA – first week of class)
- Prof. Minarcin's lecture – Bluebooking and Footnoting (TBA – week of Oct. 19)
- Guest lecture on *Estate Planning for Pets* (Peggy Hoyt, Esq.) - TBA

Out-of-Class Activities (Recommended)

- Attend SALDF guest speaker events - TBA
- Watch animal welfare and animal rights documentaries
 - Blackfish
 - Food Inc.
 - The Cove
 - Earthlings
 - Beyond the Myth: Pit Bulls and Breed Discrimination