

The First Amendment and Religion in Public Schools
Prof. Belle
Syllabus and Class Assignments

Course Name:	The First Amendment and Religion in Public Schools
Course Number:	C561
Units:	2 units
Professor:	Louise J. Belle, Esq. ljbelleslettres@gmail.com
Prerequisite:	Completion of second year
Semester:	Summer 2011
Class Time:	Wednesdays, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Required Reading:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cases as assigned, available online via Westlaw or Lexis.• Lofaso, <i>Religion in the Public Schools: A Roadmap for Avoiding Lawsuits and Respecting Parents' Legal Rights</i> (Americans United for Separation of Church and State, 2009). Full text is downloadable at http://religioninthepublicschools.com.• Other compiled readings, available at school bookstore.
Course Description:	This course will focus on the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment and how it affects religion in public schools. We will examine various theories and approaches to applying the Establishment Clause, including cases involving religious displays on public property, school vouchers, and school prayer. Special emphasis will be on the creationism-vs.-evolution debate in public school science curricula, from the 1925 <i>Scopes</i> "Monkey Trial" to the 2005 <i>Kitzmiller</i> "Panda Trial" and beyond.
Class Attendance:	Regular and punctual attendance is essential. Students should plan to attend every class session. Students must attend a minimum of 80% of the class sessions during the semester. Roll will be taken at each class.
Class preparation:	Be prepared to discuss cases (including concurring and dissenting opinions) and other readings assigned for each class.
Grading:	Pass/fail, based on a 2-hour final examination (90%) and class participation (10%). Both the quantity and quality of participation will be considered.

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6/15/11	<u>Topic:</u> <u>Reading:</u>	Creation science. • Compiled materials, Readings for Class 7
6/22/11	<u>Topic:</u> <u>Reading:</u>	Balanced treatment laws. • <i>McLean v. Arkansas Board of Educ.</i> , 529 F.Supp. 1255 (E.D. Ark. 1982) • <i>Edwards v. Aguillard</i> , 482 U.S. 578 (1987) • Lofaso, Chapter 4, §(B)(4) (pp. 71-72) • Compiled materials, Readings for Class 8
6/29/11	<u>Topic:</u> <u>Reading:</u>	Post- <i>Edwards</i> developments. • Compiled materials, Readings for Class 9
7/06/11	<u>Topic:</u> <u>Reading:</u>	Intelligent design. • Compiled materials, Readings for Class 10
7/13/11	<u>Topic:</u> <u>Reading:</u>	Intelligent design (continued). • Compiled materials, Readings for Class 11
7/20/11	<u>Topic:</u> <u>Reading:</u>	<i>Kitzmiller</i> trial. • Lofaso, Chapter 4, §(B)(5) (pp. 72-75) • Compiled materials, Readings for Class 12
7/27/11	<u>Topic:</u> <u>Reading:</u>	<i>Kitzmiller</i> trial (continued). • <i>Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District</i> , 400 F.Supp. 707 (2005)
8/03/11	<u>Topic:</u> <u>Reading:</u>	Post- <i>Kitzmiller</i> developments. • Lofaso, Chapter 4, §§ (B)(6)-(B)(8) (pp. 75-80) • Compiled materials, Readings for Class 14
Final Exam:	Date TBA	Finals between Aug. 8-Aug. 18.