

## LAW AND THE CITY

LPS U305  
Spring 2011

Mondays and Wednesdays 2:50 PM to 4:30 PM

### Instructor:

**Daryl J. Finizio, JD, esq.**

Office: 330 Holmes Hall

Office Hours: Monday 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Email: [finizio.d@neu.edu](mailto:finizio.d@neu.edu)

### Course Description:

Can cities regulate private gun ownership, such as the Mayor's Against Gun initiative, within the confines of the second amendment? When do green city initiatives, such as wetlands and water table preservation programs, regulate private property to an extent that regulation becomes constitutional "takings"? How can cities employ zoning regulation to further urban planning and economic growth? American cities are the source of many legal controversies that are on the cutting edge of modern jurisprudence, covering a wide range of subject areas. Through analysis of key legal opinions and social research, this course will examine how law is developing at the urban level. This course is an experimental course, in development for addition as a new elective in the LPS Department, as such, the curriculum and topics are flexible and subject to change as the course progresses.

### Academic Policy:

In this class you are expected to be familiar with and abide by Northeastern University's rules of academic honesty and integrity including the violations of cheating, unauthorized collaboration and plagiarism. The full text of Northeastern University's Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy can be found online on the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution ([www.osccr.neu.edu](http://www.osccr.neu.edu)).

If you have any special needs please let us know as early as possible so we can ensure that your needs are satisfactorily addressed. Additionally, if you have a documented disability you are protected from discrimination and have the right to a reasonable accommodation. Additional information can be found at the Northeastern University Disability Resource Center ([www.access-disability-deaf.neu.edu](http://www.access-disability-deaf.neu.edu)).

### Required Reading Material:

- United States Constitution
- Additional readings on the course Blackboard site

**Additional Information**

This syllabus may be adapted because of changing circumstances if needed and at the Instructor's discretion. Whenever possible, students will be asked for their input regarding any syllabus changes.

## Course Requirements

Class Attendance and Participation (20%). Students are expected to attend every class and to arrive to class on time. Failure to attend class and participate regularly will result in a significant reduction in your final grade. Students will be called on during class even if they do not volunteer, similar to the method used in most law schools. Therefore students will be expected to be prepared for every class.

Class participation includes volunteering in class and actively contributing during any group work. Students can also submit questions before class that will count towards the participation grade. If you have difficulty speaking in public you can schedule an appointment with me early in the course to work out an alternative assignment.

Reaction Papers: (30%; 15% each) Throughout the course you will be asked to hand in 2 reaction papers which will reflect upon the readings and class discussions to that point. Papers should be no longer than 8 double-spaced typed pages using a 12 point font.

Instructions for each reaction paper with suggested questions to guide your responses will be provided before each paper is due. All papers will be due in class on the day they are due, or by e-mail, time sent before that start of class on the due date. Late paper grades will be significantly reduced.

Class Project: (50%; 30% Final paper, 10% Presentation of Paper, 5% topic description, 5% outline and literature review). Students will be expected to select a research topic on urban law and/or policy. The paper should include reference to at least 10 academic sources and should be no more than 20 pages double spaced. Students will present their topic and outline as indicated on syllabus for instructor review and feedback. In addition, each student will prepare a 15 minute in class presentation of their paper on the final day of the course.

## Course Outline and Readings:

Mon., 01/10	<u>Introduction</u> Discussion of syllabus
Wed., 01/12	<u>Zoning</u> <i>Village of Euclid vs. Amber Realty</i>
Mon., 01/17	NO CLASS – MLK Day
Wed., 01/19	<u>Eminent Domain</u> <i>Lucas vs. South Carolina Coastal Council</i> <i>Pallazallo vs. Rhode Island</i>
Mon., 01/24	<u>Eminent Domain</u> <i>Kelo vs. City of New London</i>
Wed., 01/26	<u>Urban Planning &amp; Zoning Procedures</u> Readings TBA **Reaction Paper #1 assigned
Mon., 01/31	<u>Urban Gun Control &amp; Community Policing</u> <i>DC vs. Heller</i> **Reaction Paper #1 Due
Wed., 02/02	<u>Role of Attorneys in City Government</u> Readings TBA
Mon., 02/07	<u>Education in American Cities</u> Readings TBA
Wed., 02/09	<u>Immigration and City Responses</u> Readings TBA **Final paper Topic Due
Mon., 02/14	<u>Cities and Civil Rights</u> Readings TBA

Wed., 02/16	<u>Cities and Civil Rights Continued</u> Readings TBA ** Reaction Paper #2 Assigned
Mon, 02/21	NO CLASS –Presidents day
Wed., 02/23	<u>Cities and Non-Profits</u> Readings TBA **Reaction Paper #2 Due
Mon., 02/28- 03/06	NO CLASS- Spring Break
Mon., 03/07	<u>Green City Initiatives</u> Readings TBA
Wed., 03/09	<u>Green City Initiatives Continued</u> Readings TBA
Mon., 03/14	<u>Structures of Urban Government</u> Readings TBA
Wed., 03/16	<u>Financing Urban Government</u> Readings TBA
Mon., 03/21	<u>Public/Private Partnerships in American Cities</u> Readings TBA ** Final Paper Outline and Literature Review Due
Wed., 03/23	<u>Ethics in Urban Government</u> Readings TBA
Mon., 03/28	<u>City Comprehensive Plans</u> Readings TBA
Wed., 03/30	<u>Effects of Federalism on American Cities</u> Readings TBA
Mon., 04/04	TBA – Student Selected Topic and/or make up class
Wed., 04/06	TBA – Student Selected Topic and/or make up class
M&W, 04/11-04/13	Final Paper Presentations & Final Papers Due