Constitutional Law Colloquium  
L01.3540.001  
Professors Rachel Barkow and Cristina Rodríguez  
NYU School of Law  
Fall 2006

Class:  Wednesdays 2:05-3:55 PM  
Furman Hall 310

Professor Rachel Barkow  
Vanderbilt 310F  
(212) 992-8829  
barkowr@juris.law.nyu.edu  
Office Hours:  Tuesdays 10:00-12:00

Professor Cristina Rodríguez  
Vanderbilt Hall 310C  
(212) 992-8827  
cristina.rodriguez@nyu.edu  
Office Hours:  Mondays 2:30-4:30

Administrative Assistant:  
Juanita Davis  
Vanderbilt 302  
(212) 998-6019  
davisj@juris.law.nyu.edu

Readings: The readings for the course will consist of the papers submitted by our invited speakers as well as supplemental readings that we will provide as handouts or post on Blackboard throughout the semester. All electronically available readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Requirements:

(1) Response Papers: Students must write six response papers over the course of the semester. Papers are due by 5pm on the Monday before the Wednesday session in which a speaker is scheduled and should be emailed to both Professor Barkow and Professor Rodríguez. Any paper submitted after 5pm on Monday will not be counted toward fulfilling the requirement, and a make-up assignment will be required. These papers should be one to two pages in length, double-spaced and reflect on the material submitted by the invited speaker and/or any outside readings we have assigned. These papers need not respond to every aspect of the reading.

(2) Writing Requirement: Students must also submit a more substantial piece of writing. Students have two options for meeting this requirement:
(a) Students can opt to submit a research paper of 25-30 pages based on one or more of the response papers. Students selecting this option must have their topics approved either by Professor Barkow or Professor Rodríguez by Thursday, November 9. The final paper is due by the last day of the exam period.

(b) Students can elect to submit three 8-12 page papers to be submitted over the course of the semester. These papers should be extended critical analyses of issues discussed in class and need not involve original research. Students may base their final papers on one or more of their response papers. If a student opts to write the series of papers, the first paper will be due Thursday, October 5; the second paper will be due Thursday, November 9; and the final paper is due at the end of the exam period.

(3) Optional A Paper Credit: Students may use this colloquium to fulfill their A paper requirement. In order to receive A paper credit (as opposed to credit only for the colloquium), students must adhere to the following schedule: Students must meet with either Professor Rodríguez or Professor Barkow to discuss their topics by Monday, October 2. The approval of either Professor Rodríguez or Professor Barkow is required to write an A paper. A three-page outline with a proposed argument and a discussion of potential sources is due by Monday, November 13. Students are required to workshop either an extended narrative outline or a first draft of their papers with the class on either November 29 or December 6. A complete first draft must be submitted by Monday, December 11 to either Professor Barkow or Professor Rodríguez. While students may continue to work on A papers during the spring semester, everyone should aim to submit a final draft by the last day of the fall exam period. We will not give A Paper credit to any paper submitted after the first day of the spring semester exam period.

Participation: Attendance and participation are critical to the success of the seminar and will therefore be factored into each student’s final grade. Students will also have the opportunity to workshop their papers at the end of the semester (two classes have been reserved for this purpose). While workshopping is not required, it is strongly encouraged, particularly for students writing A papers and hoping to produce publishable quality work.

Grades: The weekly reaction papers and class participation will count for approximately 25% of your final grade, and the final writing requirement will count for 75%. If the final writing requirement is satisfied by the three mid-length papers of 10-15 pages each, each paper will count for approximately 25% of your final grade.

Laptops: Because space in our classroom is limited and we want to foster as much exchange as possible, no laptops are allowed in this class.
ASSIGNMENTS

Class #1  8/30 Introduction to format, schedule; discuss readings for Siegel

Class #2  9/13 (NOTE 9/6 is a legislative Monday, so we will not be meeting.)
Presenter: Reva Siegel, Yale Law School

Class #3: 9/20
Presenter: Paul Clement, Solicitor General of the United States

Class #4: 9/22: MAKEUP CLASS (2:00-4:00) (NOTE: Class date subject to change.)
Discuss readings for Smith

Class #5: 9/27
Presenter: Peter Smith, George Washington Law School

Class #6: 10/4
Discuss readings for Friedman

Class #7: 10/11
Presenter: Barry Friedman, NYU School of Law

Class #8: 10/18
Discuss reading for Levinson

Class #9: 10/25
Presenter: Daryl Levinson, Harvard Law School

Class #10: 11/1
Discuss rights/equal protection readings for Stone and Rubenstein

Class #11: 11/8
Presenter: Geoffrey Stone, University of Chicago Law School

Class #12: 11/15
Presenter: Bill Rubenstein, UCLA School of Law

Class #13: 11/29 [NOTE 11/22: Class canceled]
Student presentations

Class #14: 12/6
Student presentations/wrap up class