

The Politics of Violence Against Women
GOVT 580.03
March 23 & 24, 2002

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The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with the pervasive problem of violence against women. In this class, we will discuss sociological reasons for violence against women, and governmental and group responses to ameliorate the problem. Class will consist of thought provoking films, guest speakers involved in the issue in a variety of ways from law enforcement to lobbying for additional federal legislation, and hands on class exercises.

Readings: ALL readings are online at LEXIS/NEXIS Academic Universe in the Legal Research/Law Review section. All readings should be done prior to class.

Dana A. Fraytak, "The Influence of Pornography on Rape and Violence Against Women: A Social Science Approach," *Buffalo Women's Law Journal* (2000/01).

Owen D. Jones, Book Review: Realities of Rape: Of Science and Politics, Causes and Meanings: A Natural History of Rape: Biological Bases of Sexual Coercion, *Cornell Law Review* (2001).

Ambre Howard, "Current Events: United States v. Morrison," *American University Journal of Gender, Social Policy, & the Law* (2001)

Grading:	1. Class Participation in Hypothetical	15%
	2. Write Up of Hypothetical	35%
	3. Final Project	50%

- Assignments:
1. You will be given a hypothetical in class on Saturday. We will work on these together at the end of the day. Class on Sunday will begin with this hypothetical simulation. I want a copy of your notes and comments that you plan to use on Sunday turned in on Sunday morning.
 2. Analyze the hypothetical that we did in class, come to a conclusion about how the case should be adjudicated, and justify your decision. Length: 3 to 4 pages.
 3. You work for a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) related to domestic violence. Draft a policy memo to the executive director of your organization stating how you believe your organization should proceed in advancing legislation or litigation concerning violence against women. Be sure to advocate a position that is consistent with the positions of the group that you select. Include the home web page of the group. Length: 6 to 8 pages.

The Politics of Violence Against Women Schedule

Saturday, March 23

9:00-9:30 Introductions/ Quiz

9:30-10:30 *No Safe Place*, film dealing with the roots of violence against women 10:30-

10:45 Break

- 10:45- 11:45 Class discussion of causes of violence against women 11:45-
12:30 Lunch (Hypothetical distributed and parts assigned)
- 12:45-2:15 **Panel: Reactions to Violence Against Women on the Local Level** Det. Ronald Reed,
DC Metropolitan Police Department A. D. Moreau, My Sister's Place
Zinta Saulkains, Domestic Violence Clinic and International Women's Human Rights Clinic,
Georgetown University
- 2:15-2:30 Break
- 2:30-3:30 **Panel: The Legal Establishment and its Treatment of Violence** Bobbie Stier,
Managing Attorney, Domestic Violence Committee House of Ruth
Rachel Feldheim, ABA Commission on Domestic Violence
- 3:30-3:35 Break
- 3:35-4:30 *The Practice* episode
- 4:30-5:00 Episode, Hypothetical Discussed

Sunday, March 24

- 9:00-11:30 Hypothetical/ Simulation
- 11:30-1:00 Lunch
The Violence Against Women Act
Bonnie Campbell, former Director, Violence Against Women Office; former Iowa State
Attorney General
- 1:15-2:15 ***Violence Against Women Act and U.S. v. Morrison***
- Pam Coukos, attorney, former counsel, NOW LDEF Please read:
U.S. v. Morrison (excerpt)
Kimberle Crenshaw, "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and
Violence Against Women of Color," 43 *Stanford Law Review* 1241 Pamela
Coukos, "Deconstructing the Debate Over Gender and Hate Crimes Legislation."
- 2:15-2:30 Break
- 2:30-4:00 **Panel: Organizing to Stop Violence Against Women** Bulbul Gupta, NOW Legal Defense
and Education Fund Reva Gupta, Rep. Jan Schakowsky's office Neil Irvin, Men Can Stop
Rape
- 4:00-4:15 Break and Evaluations
- 4:15-5:00 Debriefing and Assignment