Administrative Unit: Education Department

Course Prefix and Number: EDUC 542

Course Title: Law, Ethics, and Education

Number of: Credit Hours: 3  Lecture Hours: 3  Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: The study of practices within education from both the legal and ethical perspectives. Values, morality and ethics are addressed from historical and current frameworks and applied to legal and practical questions of practical importance to educators. Prerequisite: Graduate Standing. Offered Fall semester.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate Standing.


Extensive use of periodical literature.

Course Objectives:

• To define and identify the moral and ethical responsibilities of the public schools, teachers, instructional practices, the school community, school administrators, school boards, and governing and legislative bodies.
• To identify current issues and concerns that have legal, moral, and ethical dimensions related to schools.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

• Explanation of the legal foundations of the education system in the United States.
• Description of the legal decisions that have set precedents affecting education and influenced school policies.
• Analysis and evaluation of selected current issues from legal and ethical perspectives

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

• Philosophy and ethics
• Professional standards in education
• Obligations and responsibilities of professional conduct
• Constituencies in education, their roles, and the moral and ethical implications of what they believe and do
• Current issues and concerns in education
• Legal decisions and legislation affecting the public schools
• Teaching profession and the learning of children
• Analysis of current issues from the view of various constituencies and differing legal and ethical perspectives.

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 15

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Becky J. Widener, Ph.D.
Name: ________________________________  Signature: ________________________________
Date: May 1, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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