Course Description: This seminar is intended to introduce students to the legal, ethical, social, and policy issues raised by advances in genetic science. It will explore the many ways in which the legal system, construed broadly to include all three branches of government at both the federal and state levels, is influenced by and influences developments in genetic science.

About the Instructor: Gail Javitt, JD, MPH is currently Law and Policy Director at the Genetics & Public Policy Center. From 1993-1994 she served as law clerk to the Hon. Gary L. Taylor. From 1995-1999 she practiced at Covington & Burling, where she was a member of the Food and Drug Practice Group. From 2000-2002 she was a Greenwall Fellow in Bioethics and Health Policy at Johns Hopkins and Georgetown Universities. She has taught Genetics and Law and Food and Drug Law course at the University Of Maryland School of Law. She has published widely in the area of federal oversight of science and technology, including genetic technologies. Ms. Javitt received her J.D. from Harvard Law School and her Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins.


Additional cases and articles listed in the syllabus can be obtained by you from LEXIS, WESTLAW, or the Internet, or will be on reserve in the library.

The movie GATTACA (1997) is required viewing. We will watch it together in class, or you can rent it on your own.

Other Resources:

Genetics & Public Policy Center Website, www.dnapolicy.org

Genetic Science Learning Center Website, http://gslc.genetics.utah.edu

President’s Council on Bioethics, www.bioethics.gov
Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society, http://www4.od.nih.gov/SACGHS.HTM

National Human Genome Research Institute, www.genome.gov


Dolan DNA Learning Center, http://www.dnalc.org/
SYLLABUS

Class 1/January 15:  Introduction and Overview
Casebook Chapter 1

To learn more, check out this excellent website:  
http://www.dnaftb.org/dnaftb/

Class 2/January 22:  Genetics and Clinical Care: Genetic Testing

Chapter 7: pp. 509-540; 605-666
Chapter 10: pp. 979-996

Class 3/January 29:  Regulation of Genetic Technologies

Chapter 6: 474-490

http://www.dnapolicy.org/resources/Javitt_FDLJ.pdf


Class 4/February 5:  Genetics and Research

Chapter 5: 263-336


http://www.technologyreview.com/Biotech/18096/

Class 5/February 12:  Genetics and Family

Chapter 7: pp. 541-604
Additional readings TBD
February 19 – NO CLASS (Faculty Retreat)

Class 6/February 26: **Genetic Privacy/Discrimination I**

Chapters 2,3,4 (specific pages TBD)

March 4 – NO CLASS (Spring Break)

Class 7/March 11: **Genetic Privacy/Discrimination II**

Chapters 2,3,4 (specific pages TBD)

Guest lecturer

Class 8/March 18: **Gene Patenting: A Primer**

Guest lecturer

Chapter 6: pp. 349-468
Additional readings TBD

Class 9/March 25: **Whose Genome Is it Anyway? Rights of Researchers, Patients, and Communities**

Casebook: 337-348


*Washington University v. Catalona*

*Tilousi v. Arizona State Univ. Bd. of Regents*

Class 10/April 1: **Genetics and the Environment: Genetically Modified Food**

Guest lecturer

Chapter 8 (pages TBD)
Additional readings TBD

Class 11/April 8: **Genetics in Law Enforcement**

Chapter 9: pp. 767-852

Classes 12 and 13/April 15: **Eugenics Past . . . Present . . . and Future?**
A screening of GATTACA
Chapter 10: 933-962