

A - New Course Proposal : Entry # 3657**DEAN Decision**

Approved

Date

05/05/2026

Is this course intracollegiate or intercollegiate?

Intracollegiate

ACADEMIC PROGRAM Decision

Approved

Date

09/02/2026

Type the name of your committee

Confirmed by Dr. Beth Hupfer, Chair of Legal Studies Minor Committee

SCHOOL EPC Decision

Approved

Date

10/01/2026

Begin Form**Today's Date**

05/04/2026

Your Name:

Alixandra Yanus

Your Email:ayanus@highpoint.edu**Are you a Department Chair?**

No

Department Chair Name

Martin Kifer

Email address of your Department Chair

A - New Course Proposal : Entry # 3657mkifer@highpoint.edu

By checking below, I certify that my department chair has seen and approved the new course that I am proposing.

Yes

Please select the appropriate school overseeing this proposal:

Humanities and Behavioral Sciences

When should this proposal take effect?

Fall 2026

Information for the Registrar

Choose the department designator from the list below.

PSC

Proposed Course Number?

3321

Is this course cross listed?

No

Does this course replace a current course?

No

What is the title of the new course?

Sex, Gender, and the Law

Write the catalog description of your proposed course:

This course is designed to introduce students to the evolution of gender, sexuality, and the law in the United States. Specific topics examined in the course include equal protection, employment law, reproductive rights, family law (including marriage, divorce, and child custody), and education. In this context, students will analyze and apply court cases, statutes, and legal and political science scholarship.

How many credit hours will this course be?

4

How will the course be graded?

Letter grade

Please select the course repeat option for this course:

Not repeatable for credit

What is the offering cycle for this course?

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Alternate years

Does your course have any prerequisites?

No

Is this new course being proposed because of a new or revised major or minor proposal?

No.

Gen Ed and Academic Programs**Is this course part of Gen Ed?**

- No

Does this course count towards a major or a minor?

Yes

Please list the Major / Minor and if it is Required or Elective

PSC Major- Elective/ LST Minor- Elective

Is this course part of an academic program?

- Legal Studies

Have you received approval from the appropriate academic program committee to move forward with this proposal?

Yes

Does this course include any community engagement?

No

Does this course participate in the GoGlobal Program?

No

Information for Curriculum Review**Rationale and evidence for new course's consistency with departmental mission:**

This course has been offered three times as a special topics class to support PSC majors and LST minors. It supports our goals of critical reading, writing, and thinking about the law.

List all student learning outcomes for this course.

1. Explain how American law defines and regulates sex and gender, including the evolution of rights related to equality, citizenship, and family life.
2. Analyze major judicial decisions related to gender discrimination, equal protection, employment, reproductive rights, family law, and education.

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3. Apply standards of review under the equal protection clause to contemporary and historical cases involving sex and gender discrimination.
4. Evaluate how statutes, court decisions, and political context interact to shape legal outcomes and public policy affecting women and gender related rights.
5. Develop clear written and oral legal arguments.

List any units or content areas that will be required for all sections of this course.

Units and content areas may vary from year to year; however, required units and content areas may include...

Gender Discrimination in Historical Context
 Equal Protection
 Employment
 Reproductive Rights
 Family Law
 Education

List any assignments, tests, or other assessments that will be required for all sections of this course.

Exams
 Moot Courts
 Final Paper (Judicial Opinion)
 Participation and Professionalism

List any readings or other materials that will be required for all sections of this course.

Kaheny, Erin B., Tammy A. Sarver, and Alixandra B. Yanus. Sex and Gender Inequality: Problems and Perspectives. St. Paul, MN: West Academic.

List any course policies that will be required for all sections of this course.

Classroom Policies

Absences: Students are expected to attend every class meeting and are responsible for class attendance and accountable for all class activities. If students miss more than two classes, they will be put on attendance probation. More than four unexcused absences will normally cause a student to be involuntarily withdrawn from the course. A substantial portion of the student's grade is earned in class. This is also the opportunity to discuss course content, ask questions, and engage in conversation with the instructor and classmates.

If students must miss class, communication with the instructor regarding circumstances (e.g., illness, personal concerns, family emergencies) is strongly encouraged. This will enable students and the instructor to work together to find the best way to both meet student needs and deliver a high-quality educational experience.

If students miss a graded exercise (e.g., exam, moot court), documentation must be provided to support the absence. This includes proof of such events as medical emergencies, deaths in the family, and other unforeseen circumstances as documented by the Office of the Dean of Students. It may also include religious observances or other university-sponsored activities; in the event one of these events conflicts with a graded assignment, the professor should be notified as soon as possible so appropriate accommodations can be made. It does not include forgetting an assignment was scheduled, sleeping through an alarm, etc. In addition, having already booked a ticket home or to any other location for breaks will not constitute an exception to the rule that all absences must be the result of a serious and unavoidable set of circumstances.

Academic integrity: As a condition of membership in the university community, every High Point Student is honor-bound to refrain

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from cheating, collusion, and plagiarism. You also are honor-bound to report violations of the Honor Code should you ever observe them. Without exception, students taking or facilitating an inappropriate academic advantage will have an Honor Code violation case filed, and they will be sanctioned according to the applicable university policies.

While there are many forms of academic dishonesty, the core of this concept is easy to understand. Cheating refers to efforts to gain academic credit or a higher grade by representing that you have behaved appropriately, completed work, or adhered to assignment expectations when this is not the case. Acts of academic dishonesty include the presentation of another student's or author's ideas as one's own work, claiming that you have done work that you did not do (including unapproved use of artificial intelligence software including, but not limited to Chat GPT, Meta AI, or Consensus), engaging others (including but not limited to classmates, siblings, parents, and AI editors) to complete or improve the quality of your assignments, misconstruing the circumstances under which class meetings or assignment deadlines have been missed, purposefully misreporting paper word counts, submitting without preapproval by all involved parties the same work for which you have or will receive academic credit in other courses, and inaccurately representing when assignments were completed so as to avoid a grade reduction. Please refer to the University Honor Code (<https://www.highpoint.edu/studentconduct/university-honor-code/>) for further definitions and possible implications of student misconduct.

Communication: The most authoritative announcements are made in class, but you should watch closely for informational e-mails to your High Point University account and check the course Blackboard site regularly.

Contact Hours: The contact hours and out-of-class workload for this course meet or exceed requirements established in federal and accrediting agency guidelines. In planning your day-to-day schedule, be aware that our reading and writing assignments, as well as my assessment of your work, will reflect the fact that this is a four-credit hour, upper-level course. While there will be some variation from week to week, over the course of the semester, you should plan on committing a minimum of eight (8) hours each week to completing the out-of-class assignments that are required to pass the course.

Counseling Services: Students may sometimes experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning. These might include strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, substance use concerns, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Counseling Services is here to help year-round with these or other concerns you may experience. These services are covered in your student fees and are confidential. You may reach Counseling Services by calling 336-888-6352 or check out their website at www.highpoint.edu/counseling. Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8:30-5:00. Follow them on Instagram (@pantherprevention).

Course website: Blackboard will serve as the main course website. I will post materials for the class on this site, including the syllabus, and this will be the main portal to access your course textbook and outside of class assignments. Please let me know if you have trouble accessing the site.

Disabilities: Students who require accommodations due to a diagnosed disability must submit appropriate documentation and receive instructions from the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (336-841-9026; oars@highpoint.edu). Only that office can approve accommodations (for both physical and mental health concerns), and by university policy and federal law, accommodations cannot be applied retroactively. Students must verbally request each specific accommodation to which they are entitled and discuss with instructors the implementation of their accommodation(s).

Diversity: High Point University is committed to fostering an inclusive learning and living environment. We welcome and respect all students, faculty, and staff of all races, ethnicities, religions, genders, sexual orientations, sexual identities and gender expressions, abilities, classes, ages, and political ideas. Diversity in identity, thought, belief and perspective enrich the academic experience and is critical to your growth as a lifelong learner. It is our expectation that every member of our university community upholds a standard of civility and respect both inside and outside of the classroom. The HPU Multicultural Affairs office and the Assistant Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion are campus resources available to anyone seeking support or with questions about diversity and inclusion at High Point University. If you experience or witness an act of bias at HPU or would like to learn more about our Bias Reporting Process, please email diversity@highpoint.edu.

Electronic media: It is the expectation of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences and the Department of Political Science that cell phone use during class is prohibited. This includes voice, text, video, data or any other current or future

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transmission technology.

Any audio or video recording in the class, including the instructor's lecture/discussion, or other classroom activity, is strictly prohibited unless authorized by the instructor and students in the classroom. This includes the unauthorized recording of online discussions and online breakout rooms.

Inappropriate use of a laptop, desktop or other electronic computing device during class will result in you being asked to leave the room. An absence will be recorded for that day's class.

Evaluations: Online course evaluations are an important part of your participation in this class. High Point University is very interested in your thoughts about the class in general, the materials you use, the content you learned, and the instruction you received. If you have any problems completing the evaluation, Dr. Jeff Adams, the University's Director of Institutional Assessment, will be able to assist you. He is available at jadams@highpoint.edu.

Flexibility: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course requirements and other related policies as circumstances may dictate. Even the professor can have an unanticipated emergency, and the university—or the community at large—may experience an emergency that requires changing the class schedule or requirements. I don't expect to invoke this clause, but if I do, you will be notified as soon as possible.

Late assignments: You are responsible for the assignments and the announcements made in class and on your syllabus. Please note the policies stated on specific assignments above. Late work will never be accepted after final grades are submitted.

Library resources: HPU Librarians provide research and citation assistance to all students in any subject area. Experienced librarians are available at Smith Library (open 24/5). You can also call (336-841-9101), email (reference@highpoint.edu), text (336-289-9974) or chat with a librarian online at any time, day or night. For more information about library resources, services or facilities, visit HPU Libraries' website at <http://www.highpoint.edu/library>.

Mutual respect: Just as students should expect an instructor to show tolerance for a range of viewpoints concerning the issues discussed in class, students should show respect for the opinions of their fellow students. The standard for appropriate discussion in this class will be that students should feel free to express views without fear of condemnation, but also respect the rights and, ultimately, the feelings of others.

Office hours: Office hours are listed on the top of the syllabus. Students who are having difficulty with the course materials and/or assignments are encouraged to seek assistance during office hours or schedule an appointment with the instructor outside of office hours. Please note that office hours are for clarification of material, not for recreating a lecture or discussion. In other words, if you miss a class, please make sure you read the required readings and obtain notes from a classmate rather than coming to office hours and asking the instructor to "re-do" the lecture. I am always happy to spend time with students clarifying material or assignments, provided they have made an independent effort.

Starfish: High Point University uses Starfish to help signal to you and others on campus when you may need additional support to achieve academic success in your courses. When I observe situations in which you are struggling with assignments or tests, seem disengaged from class, or even in distress, I will raise a Starfish flag to notify you of my concern.

Flags do not directly affect your grade or carry any punitive consequence, but they are intended to signal that you need to make some changes in how you are approaching your coursework. Please pay attention to these emails and texts seek assistance and support from others. Some possible next steps are to meet with me, schedule an appointment with your Academic Advisor or Success Coach, or sign up for tutoring.

Starfish can be accessed by logging into <https://mysuccess.highpoint.edu/>.

Title IX: If you or someone you know experiences stalking, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, or sex/gender-based discrimination please know, you are not alone. There are resources that can help: These include HPU's Title IX Coordinator

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(<http://www.highpoint.edu/title-ix/> or 336-841-9138). You can also report using the online complaint form (https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?HighPointUniv&layout_id=20). If you would prefer more confidential discussion, please reach out to Counseling Services (<http://www.highpoint.edu/counseling/> or 336-888-6352 between 8:30a and 5p M-F or through an after hours Security referral at 336-841-9111).

Writing Center: The Writing Center provides writing assistance for students at any level of study – from freshman to graduate – at any stage in the writing process, from invention through revision. Visit <http://www.highpoint.edu/academicservices/writing-center/> to learn more. Go to <https://highpoint.mywconline.com/> to make an appointment.

Writing Center tutors do not proofread or edit students' papers for them, but they do work with students to help them develop strategies for improving their writing in light of their respective assignments, instructors, and writing styles. For more information, contact Writing Center Director, Dr. Justin Cook at jcook3@highpoint.edu or (336) 841-2841.

If you would like to specify how requirements for contact hours must be met for all sections of this course, please indicate below. (e.g., if any experiential learning activities will replace seat time)

n/a; traditional course as shown on syllabus.

Is there anything else the reviewing parties should know about this new course proposal that hasn't been addressed?

No.

Sample Syllabus

- [PSC-3881-GenderLaw-ToEPC.docx](#)