Family Law

Fall 2013
Meets: T, W 10:30am - 12:00pm

Professor Elizabeth Bartholet
3 classroom credits

How society structures family says much about its values. This course will examine major legal and constitutional trends shaping family, and the values they reflect. We will look at how law shapes the meaning of parenthood and childhood, and how it weighs child as compared to adult rights. We will look at the changing nature of family, including non-traditional family forms (e.g. same-sex unions, single parent households, cohabitation, foster families), and consider what legal regime is appropriate, given our visions of what family does and should mean. We will examine issues surrounding procreation, marriage, divorce, child maltreatment and related state intervention, adoption, and assisted reproductive technology.

This course is part of the Child Advocacy Program (CAP), whose other courses are: Child, Family & State (alternate years); The Art of Social Change: Child Welfare, Education, & Juvenile Justice; the Child Advocacy Clinic; and the Future of the Family Seminar. Enrollment in all the CAP courses is encouraged but not required.

Cross-registrants are welcome.

Text is Dwyer, Family Law: Theoretical, Comparative, and Social Science Perspectives (2012).

Laptops cannot be used in class. Grades will be based on one-day take-home exam, with consideration given to class performance if class size is less than fifty.