PUB. HEALTH LAW - Course Information

Professor Lars Noah

Please be aware that this document does not qualify as a “syllabus” under university rules as it includes only essential information about this course; non-essential boilerplate crafted by others can be found elsewhere.

This class meets Mondays & Tuesdays, 11:00-11:55, in Rm. 284. Unless otherwise announced, office hours will take place on Tuesdays @ 12:00-2:00 p.m., possibly also Wednesdays & Thursdays @ 12:00-1:00 p.m. (or you can try and make an appointment for a different time), subject to the following caveat: no shirt, no shoes, no mask, no service.

We will be using a coursepack that I’ve just assembled (still very much a work-in-progress), Law and the Public’s Health: Cases, Controversies & Covid. You can access this on our Canvas site, but please do not distribute it to anyone else. (It’s possible that I’ll post revised reading materials there.) I’ll also post any PowerPoint slides and other misc. items after each class on our Canvas site.

The dates indicate when you should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Regular attendance and occasional participation are expected of everyone (I’ll try to keep track of both).

Jan. 18 (Tue): Table of Contents/Preface: i-ix
Video: “1918 Flu/Polio” (PBS Amer. Experience, 2020) [55 min. (abridged)]

Jan. 24 (Mon): Golden oldies: 1-14
Jan. 25 (Tue): Golden oldies (cont’d): 14-26
Jan. 31 (Mon): Declaring emergencies: 27-39
Feb. 1 (Tue): Isolation, quarantine & masking: 49-61, 39-45
Feb. 7 (Mon): Isolation, quarantine & masking (cont’d): 45-49, 61-71
Feb. 8 (Tue): Vaccine mandates: 75-91
Feb. 14 (Mon): Other forms of PPE/Mandatory treatment: 71-75, 93-100
Video: “The Forgotten Plague” (PBS Amer. Exper., 2015) [21 min. (abridged)]
Feb. 15 (Tue): Mandatory treatment (cont’d)/Crim. prosecution: 100-16
Feb. 21 (Mon): Federal power (cruise ships): 117-38
Feb. 22 (Tue): Fed. power (eviction moratorium)/Business closures: 138-54
Feb. 28 (Mon): Workplace safety: 154-69
Mar. 1 (Tue): Schools/Houses of worship: 178-92
Mar. 14 (Mon):  *Homes/Public spaces/Pathogen research*: 192-206
Mar. 15 (Tue):  *Medical countermeasures*: 207-25
Mar. 21 (Mon):  *Food and Drink (sanitation and fortification)*: 225-37
Mar. 28 (Mon):  *Consumer goods: Design stds. & Age limits*: 253-69
Mar. 29 (Tue):  *Pets and wild animals*: 277-92
Apr. 4 (Mon):  *Public nuisance litigation*: 296-314
Apr. 5 (Tue):  *Safety alerts and disclosure reqts.*: 328-40
Apr. 11 (Mon):  *Censoring information*: 340-55
Apr. 12 (Tue):  *Educational outreach*: 355-74
Apr. 18 (Mon):  Video: “Poisoned Water” (PBS Nova, 2017) [52 min.]
Apr. 19 (Tue):  *State indifference and neglect*: 375-91
Apr. 25 (Mon):  *Derailing mask & vaccination reqts.*: 392-99, 404-15

May 9 (Mon):  **Final exam**: Open book, 2 essay-style questions (probably given 1 hour for ea.), with strict word limits to discourage use of canned, nonresponsive answers.)