

**Professor Florence Wagman Roisman  
Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis  
Comparative Housing Law**

**SYLLABUS**

**Fall 2007**

Monday & Wednesday

8:30 - 9:25

The faculty assistant with whom I work is Ms. Mary Deer. Her office is room 399V and she can be reached at 274.1909 and [mdeer1@iupui.edu](mailto:mdeer1@iupui.edu).

**Required Texts:**

Michael Harloe, *The People's Home?: Social Rented Housing in Europe and America* (Blackwell 1995) ("Harloe")

Florence Wagman Roisman, "Materials for a Course in Comparative Housing Law ["CHL"]". **Will be available on Oncourse.**

**Course Requirements:**

There will be NO final exam in this course. Grades will be based on satisfying these requirements:

1. Preparation for, attendance at, and participation in class. Anyone who misses more than 3 classes may be dropped from the course, at my discretion. Repeated lack of preparation may be treated as an absence, at my discretion.
2. **A book review.** Each student is to read and review one non-fiction book, either from the list at the end of this syllabus or the recommended optional readings identified in the syllabus, or otherwise approved by me in advance. This must be a book the student has not read before. If you want to read a book that is on the booklist, please tell Ms. Mary Deer the author and title. She will record these choices, on a first-come, first-served basis. If you wish to review a book that's not on the list, you must first secure my approval. No more than one student is to review any book. During office hours or by appointment, you may browse my bookshelves to help select the book you want to read.

Each student is to post her or his book review on OnCourse and give a printed copy to me (or Ms. Deer) not later than \_\_\_\_\_. Each student is responsible for reading every student's book review.

Instructions for the book reviews are on page 5 of this syllabus. The book review will be

worth 40 points, including 10 points for timeliness, 10 points for writing technique (spelling, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, organization, and general compliance with Strunk & White), and 20 points for substance. If the review is more than 9 days late, points will be deducted from the other categories (minus 2 points for the first day late; 1 point per day thereafter).

3. **Reflections:** A written reflection will be due each week, **including the first week**. Each reflection is to be in two parts. Part I is to indicate your understanding **of each item assigned for the week**. With respect to cases, the reflection should show your understanding of the legal standards involved in the case and the bases for the decision(s) (majority and dissent, where relevant). In Part II of each reflection, you should discuss what you think about the relationships between law and social change, based on what you've read, discussed, and thought cumulatively, up to and including but not limited to that week. This part of the reflection should discuss your reactions to the previous week's classes and how your views are changing as we progress through the course. (The first reflection, of course, will have Part I only.)

Each reflection will be graded on a 40 point scale -- 10 for timeliness; 10 for writing technique; 10 for completeness (addressing all the assigned material); and 10 for thoughtful analysis of and reflection on the material. A paper that is more than 9 days late will lose points from other categories.

You may bring the reflection to class or print and give to Ms. Mary Deer. Please DO NOT E-MAIL reflections to me or to Ms. Deer -- it takes too long for us to print them. Each reflection is to be short -- usually between 5 and 10 typewritten pages.

The reflection always is due at the first class of the week, and the reflection is due before class begins. If the reflection is submitted after class, it is late. Every day the reflection is late means the loss of more points -- and points will be deducted from the other categories.

Because there are so many students in this class, I will not necessarily read every reflection that is submitted each week. I will read the same number of reflections -- probably, at least five -- for each student. If you especially want me to read your reflection in any particular week (because you want my reactions to your views, or because you think you've done an unusually good job, or for any other reason), note that in red (or another color) at the top of the first page of your reflection.

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Note that timeliness is a crucial part of the grade. I will grade every reflection -- (13 for each student) -- for timeliness. Any reflection that is submitted on the due date but after the beginning of class will lose 1 point; any reflection submitted one day late will lose 2 points for that day; any reflection submitted thereafter will lose one additional point for each further day. The timeliness grades will become negative after 9 days, thus detracting

from the grades in other categories.

4. If any student wishes to prepare and present a paper on either a housing issue in a particular country or an issue that affects several countries, that student should contact me. For second year students, such a paper may be used to satisfy the Advanced Research and Writing requirement. (I do not supervise such papers in a student's third year, as that imposes a deadline that is not always consistent with achieving the quality I seek in a paper.)
5. **Quiz:** Before the first class, we will post a quiz on Oncourse. The point of this quiz is to illuminate what you do or do not know about the Civil Rights Movement. Although you are to hand in that quiz, it will not be graded. At the end of the semester, you are to hand in the re-completed quiz, and that will be a portion of your grade. You might want to answer questions as we go through the semester.

I welcome and encourage your comments, criticisms, and suggestions, which may be provided in person or in writing, anonymously or not. I want this to be a stimulating, useful course for you and those who take it in the future, and seek your help in making it so. I am very interested in knowing which of the materials you think useful or interesting (or not).

Materials relevant to the course will be posted on Oncourse. Please check Oncourse regularly.

### **Book Review:**

Your book review should be between 5 and 10 pages long, typed, double-spaced.

The point of the review is to tell your colleagues what you learned from the book -- both to share information with them and to give them such a vision of what further wonders are in the book as to entice each of them to read the book. (If you begin to read a book and conclude it's not worth reading, you should stop and select another book.) Since it's unlikely that everyone else in the class will read the book you read, your review should provide as much information as possible in as clear a fashion as possible.

Your review also should assess the book. This requires describing the author(s) or editor(s) -- her, his, or their academic and professional credentials, pertinent philosophical or other biases, noted works and other writings. Look for other reviews of the book, and see what others -- preferably professionals in the field rather than professional book reviewers -- have said about it. An important part of the review is to show where this book fits into the literature, how it is regarded by authorities in the field -- and why. Most of the books you are reading are not written by or for lawyers; we therefore are especially interested in the pertinence of these books for law students and soon-to-be-practicing lawyers. Your colleagues in the class will want to know what you think about the substance and style of the book, whether and why you would recommend that

they read it, how it relates to other books that they are likely to have read. Include the name of the publisher and the date of publication.

Each of these books is pertinent to subjects we're discussing in class. Please identify those connections, and discuss them in as much detail as possible. In sum: please make your review as useful to your colleagues as you possibly can.

### **Subtle Machinations:**

You will note that I have assigned portions of each of the excellent books we are using. I certainly hope that you will find it easier (and more interesting) to read all of each book.

The goal of the reflections process, of course, is to assure that each of you is well-prepared for class. Timely, stimulating, well-written reflections could earn everyone a grade of "A."

### **Office Hours:**

I generally am in my office (room 303). I try to do my own reading and writing in the mornings, and therefore prefer to see or hear from students in the afternoons, but you should feel free to contact me at any time in emergency situations. My phone number is 317-274-4479; my e-mail address is froisman@iupui.edu; my fax number is 317-274-3955. I will have regular office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00 - 12:00 noon. Barring emergencies, I will be in my office specifically for the purpose of seeing students at that time. I will be glad to make appointments to see students at other times. **Please do not call or visit my office in the mornings except in real emergencies.**

I welcome and encourage your comments, criticisms, and suggestions, which may be provided in person or in writing, anonymously or not. Comparative Housing Law is a subject I think very exciting; I want this to be a stimulating, useful course for you and those who take in the future, and seek your help in making it so.

If you have procedural questions, or questions about the availability of materials, please address them to Ms. Deer (274-1909; mdeer1@iupui.edu). If you are not sure whether to address a question to her or to me, please ask her first. She will tell you if it involves a matter about which I should be consulted. Technology questions should be addressed to the Technical Support Staff, not to Ms. Deer or me.

When you do the dates, pls note that there's no class on Monday, Sept. 10. This is to be made up on Wed., Dec. 5, at noon to 1. Thanks.

### **Required Text:**

Michael Harloe, *The People's Home?: Social Rented Housing in Europe and America* (Blackwell 1995) ("Harloe")