

**MORE RIGHTS AND FIGHTS:
LAW, POLITICS AND CONTEMPORARY
SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

The Fromm Institute Winter 2009

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This course will examine several topics of current interest in the sequence listed below. In exploring these issues, we will find that social controversy, the activity of political interest groups, and the operation of our legal system all converge in a manner that allows our courts and judges to render the last word in resolving passionately contested disputes. Since the language and style of judicial decisions is not always user-friendly, an explicit purpose of our class sessions is to deal with legal matters in "plain English," always striving to clarify the apparent complexities of our civil and criminal justice systems.

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Class One, January 15. Supreme Court Review.

Class Two, January 22. Criminal Rights Issues.

Class Three, January 29. Mass Torts and Class Actions.

Class Four, February 5. Government Secrecy and Executive Privilege.

Class Five, February 12. De-Mystifying International Law.

Class Six, February 19. Problems of Religious Freedom.

Class Seven, February 26. Private Property Rights, Eminent Domain and Environmental Impact.

Class Eight, March 5. Cinematic Courtroom Moments.

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Here are some Internet sites that might be consulted by those who would like to explore further some of the subjects included in this course. Assume that the

entries below are preceded by http:// and certainly also use conventional search engines like Google and Yahoo to zero in on very specific topics.

www.supremecourtus.gov (direct source for Supreme Court opinions)

www.findlaw.com/casecode (federal and state court opinions, laws)

www.abanet.org (has Public Resources link to many subjects)

www.nolo.com/glossary (a legal dictionary for non-lawyers)

If there is not sufficient time toward the end of each class to answer all your questions, please feel free to send me an inquiry by e-mail and I'll do my best to respond. My e-address, a change from last year, is now ccaton@stmarys-ca.edu