This course will be structured around four legal topics:

**Title VII.** Statutory interpretation and employment discrimination, with special attention to affirmative action, sexual harassment, and transgender rights.

**Products Liability.** Common law interpretation and consumer safety, with special attention both to the historical development of the law and to modern litigation about fat, sugar and tobacco.

**The Second Amendment.** Constitutional interpretation and gun rights, with attention both to the historical background of the Second Amendment and to recent cases.

**Self-Driving Cars.** Regulation and new technologies.

The goal is to use these issues as vehicles for teaching legal reasoning and broader concepts about American Law. Topics will be taught using cases, statutes, and theoretical/academic articles. Students will be encouraged to formulate their own legal arguments, understand and critique legal arguments they read in cases and academic materials, and debate with each other. I also hope to help students understand the relationship between policy arguments and legal arguments through both theoretical materials addressing that topic and through the cases and statutes we discuss.

In addition, the course will have five principal learning goals:

**Students will learn to read cases critically.**

**Students will develop the capacity for reasoning-giving in statutory interpretation, common law, and constitutional law.**

**Students will develop an ability to notice how claims about history, culture, society, politics, morality, and other elements of the human condition are asserted in the course of legal reasoning.**

**Students will become attentive to way law uses language to make meaning and the way legal language gives rise to conflicting interpretations.**

**Students will look at law from both internal and external points of view.**