SYLLABUS

Class Meetings: Mondays from 6:00 to 8:45 in College of Computing Room 101 with a 10-minute break at 7:30.

Optional Text:
You may find the following text helpful as a supplement to required readings: Zoning and Land Use Law in Georgia, Weissman, Seth G., Dillard, G. Douglas, and Skinner, Jill (2013).

Classroom Expectations:
The purpose of classroom discussion and debate is to develop analytical and oral argument skills. Students who perform well in this class will be able to:

1. Identify legal issue(s) arising from a given fact pattern;
2. Apply applicable legal rule(s) to each legal issue presented;
3. Make arguments that are not conclusory (every argument should be based on informed legal reasoning);
4. Identify and consider counter-arguments; and
5. Explain why the argument is still valid when confronted with counter-arguments.

Students will also be expected to analyze original fact patterns and disputes against relevant law, and to develop legal positions based on that legal analysis. To facilitate the development of these skills, every student is expected to read assigned cases in advance of class meetings and to participate in class legal discussions based on these readings. Students will also be asked to respond to the claims and arguments of others and to provide counter-arguments even when they do not support the counter-arguments they may have to present.

Grading:
Grades will be based on a combination of class participation (25%), a mid-term examination (25%), and a final in-class examination (50%). Students who are present and able to respond to questions based on the assigned reading will receive full class participation credit for the day in question. Students who are absent or unable to respond to questions based on the assigned reading will receive no class participation credit for the day in question. The focus of this class will be placed on the legal reasoning that is articulated in support of a student argument. Students will absolutely not be penalized for giving a “wrong” answer.