

OPEN ENROLLMENT PERSPECTIVES COURSES

(LSM.856)

Course Descriptions

Spring 2026

AI and the "Jagged Frontier" (Instructor: Nicole Dyslewski)

Using Ethan Mollick's book *Co-Intelligence: Living and Working with AI as a guidepost*, this (mostly) online course will be a beginner's look into how generative AI works, and how it can work (and fail miserably) for us as lawyers. Through the course of this class, we will learn about several types of AI for both legal and non-legal tasks. We will discuss ways AI is being used in the practice of law. We will discuss the pitfalls of AI. Finally, we will work hands-on with several AI technologies and discuss the helpful (and possibly disastrous results) and how this relates to our duty of competence as a lawyer.

Evaluating Use of Force by Police- (Instructor: Daniel Guglielmo)

This class will closely analyze some of the most highly visible cases in the country involving police use of excessive force, for example the cases of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Kim Potter and Michael Brown. Before delving into the particulars of these cases, the class will offer a thorough background of the development of this area of the law over the last fifty years through Supreme Court decisions and applicable statutes. Additionally, this course will provide a brief review of criminal procedure to understand the travel of the cases from grand jury to indictment to trial. Following this study, the course will offer an in-depth analysis of the cases including; reading grand jury and trial transcripts, watching trial testimony and available video and reviewing some of the public commentary related to the cases. Finally, the course will examine some Rhode Island cases involving police officers' use of force.

International Peace Law – (Instructor: Greg Noone)

Students will work in teams to research and generate client-ready work product for international organizations and government clients that are facing peace-adverse challenges. The work product developed in this course will support clients in matters pertaining to accountability, negotiations, mediation, and commitment to human rights.

Legal History: Constitutional Law Stories – (Instructor: Judge Francis Flaherty)

This perspectives course will examine several historically significant US Supreme Court cases in the light of societal occurrences and changes at the times that the particular cases were being decided.

Legal Writing Projects – (Instructor: Justin Kishbaugh)

This one-credit course will consist of six two-hour classes that will meet bi-weekly over a total of twelve weeks to provide its students with consistent check-in points and feedback as they work through the process of composing a long-form written legal argument. Students may use this course as an add-on for their writing requirement, directed research, writing sample, or any other writing project they want to complete while in the course. Students are not however required to have identified an outside project prior to registering for the course; they may instead

register and, while in the course, identify a legal writing contest whose topic is of interest to them and then complete a submission for that contest. In fact, all students who register for this course will be encouraged to identify and submit to a legal writing contest whose focus matches their paper's topic. Over its six bi-weekly meetings, this course will walk students through a writing process that begins with an outline and moves to paragraph structure before then addressing sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, word choice, and proofreading. This class will also make direct connections between its materials and assignments and the types of writing its students will be expected to produce on the bar exam and, subsequently, in practice. Students will submit an assignment for each class meeting and will also have access to optional two-hour writing workshops that will take place during class time on the weeks when class does not meet. Students may use these workshops to write and receive immediate feedback on their projects.

Standards of Review – (Instructor: Judge Francis Flaherty)

What is “on the table” during the course of an appellate case? This course will examine what appellate courts consider during the consideration of various types of appeals.

Starting & Managing a Law Firm – (Instructor: Anthony Leone)

Law Office Management is a practical course to explore starting, running, and growing a law practice. Students will create a business plan and draft various documents essential to any law practice. A broad range of practice management topics will be discussed, including the choice of entity, practice specialization, business development, marketing, and various ethical issues.