

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - SPRING 2019

ADMIRALTY LAW - LAW 780

This course involves a study of the jurisdiction of admiralty courts and the laws affecting maritime rights and obligations. Areas included are the history of maritime law, choice of law in admiralty cases, maritime property interests, rights of seamen, carriage of goods, salvage, and collision.

APPLIED LEGAL REASONING - LAW 889

This class is the bridge between the three-year law school curriculum and the two months of bar review following graduation. The course teaches much of the law tested on the bar exam, yet focuses primarily on thinking skills and test-taking strategies. Extensive coverage is given to the most difficult part of the bar exam: the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE), the 200-question multiple-choice test that is part of the bar exam of every state except Louisiana and Washington State. The course also covers essay and performance test writing techniques. The Fall Semester (1 credit) will cover Torts, Criminal Law, & Criminal Procedure. The spring course (2 credits) will cover Evidence, Contracts, Property, & Constitutional Law. The Fall Semester course is not a formal prerequisite for the Spring Semester, but is highly recommended.

BANKRUPTCY - LAW 784

This course covers the basic principles of individual and business bankruptcies. The course will first cover the core bankruptcy principles that are generally applicable to every type of bankruptcy, including the automatic stay, the bankruptcy estate, and the rights of creditors. These provisions of the Bankruptcy Code are found in Chapters 1, 3 and 5. The course will then cover the basic principles of individual bankruptcies. This part of the course will focus on Chapters 7 and 13 of the Bankruptcy Code. The course will then cover the basic principles of business bankruptcies. This part of the course will focus on Chapter 11.

BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS - LAW 635

This course surveys and analyzes the various forms of business enterprises. Organizations include sole proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations. Topics include the legal relationships between the corporation and its directors, officers, stockholders, and creditors; risk reduction devices; formation, dissolution, and termination; and agency relationships and responsibilities. Consideration is given to cases, statutes, model acts, and securities laws.

CHILDREN & LAW - LAW 723

This course would focus on the law and policies underlying the allocation of power and responsibility among children, parents and the state. Areas that the course covers include children's constitutional rights; child abuse and neglect; and juvenile crime and delinquency.

CONFLICTS OF LAWS - LAW 737

Callie from California and Max from Massachusetts get into a car accident with each other in the parking lot of Disney World (Florida). Max returns home to Massachusetts and sues Callie and Disney World in Massachusetts state court. Does the Massachusetts court have jurisdiction over Callie and/or Disney World? If so, what law would a Massachusetts court apply to the dispute – Massachusetts law? California law? Florida law? If Max obtains judgment against Callie and Disney World, are these judgments enforceable in California and Florida? If Callie moves to France and obtains a declaratory judgment there that she is not liable to Max for the car accident, would this French judgment be recognized by a Massachusetts court to preclude Max's lawsuit? These are the questions to be explored in this Conflict of Laws course. The course will focus on three broad questions: 1. Jurisdiction: When does a court have jurisdiction over a dispute? 2. Choice of Law: What law will a court apply to a dispute? 3. Enforcement of Judgments: When will a judgment from a foreign court (U.S. state or foreign country) be recognized and/or enforced? The approach taken is a mix between academic and practical. The ultimate goal is to have students not only understand the doctrines that comprise the conflict of laws, but be able to apply and manipulate them to achieve a desired result.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE: ADJUDICATION - LAW 682

This course is an analysis of selected and evolving criminal justice issues arising under the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Within this context, emphasis is placed on the workings of the advocacy system, prosecution and defense functions.

EMPLOYMENT LAW - LAW 820

This course will examine government regulation of the relationship of the individual employee and his or her employer. The propriety of regulating particular areas of the employment relationship and the efficacy of alternative regulatory schemes will be recurring themes. Areas of coverage may include employment at-will, wrongful termination, employment discrimination, regulation of compensation, workplace health and safety, unemployment compensation, and pensions.

FAMILY LAW - LAW 722

This course examines the underlying social and economic principles of family life, its regulation by government, and constitutional limitations on regulation. Direct laws covering marriage, divorce, and child custody will be examined but also the course will cover those areas of law--property, income maintenance, medical care, schooling and crime--that also have direct impact on families in this society.

FEDERAL INCOME TAX - LAW 647

This course provides a survey of the federal income tax system as it relates to individual and business activity. Topics include code, regulation, and case analysis; tax policy, economics, and public finance; and tax legislation. Specific concepts included are income, exclusions, deductions, credits, tax accounting, and tax procedure.

HOUSING LAW & POLICY - LAW 811

This course will provide an overview of federal housing law and policy in the United States with a focus on affordable housing development. We will examine federal housing policies and programs, public housing, fair housing, racial segregation, tenant evictions and the effects of gentrification. Guest speakers, including housing advocates, affordable housing developers, governmental officials and practicing lawyers, will offer their unique perspective on a variety of housing related issues. Through this course,

students will develop an understanding of housing law and policy and explore the multiple barriers to providing safe, fair and affordable housing to low and moderate-income families.

INTERNATIONAL LAW - LAW 770

This basic course introduces students to the central topics, ideas and principles of present-day public international law. It will also cover the judicial and other structures including the United Nations, which are central to the determination and enforcement of this legal regime.

LABOR LAW - LAW 822

This course surveys the federal regulation of the union-management relationship in the private sector. The principle focus of the course is the National Labor Relations Act. The course will examine the establishment of the collective bargaining relationship, the negotiation of the collective agreement, unfair labor practice proceedings, economic pressure tactics, the enforcement of the collective agreement, and the duty of fair representation.

LAW AND MEDICINE - LAW 726

The two professions of law and medicine intersect in many parts of American society. Issues such as expert testimony, the doctor-patient relationship, malpractice, and ethical issues, including the right to die, and their legal ramifications will be reviewed.

MARINE INSURANCE – LAW 788

This course examines the legal problems involved in insurance against physical loss or damage to maritime property (hull), against maritime liabilities (protection and indemnity), and for damage to goods (cargo).

ENERGY LAW IN MARITIME ECONOMY – LAW 783

The pursuit of offshore energy development – especially renewable energy - comes with great potential, but with technical, market and legal challenges as well. There are natural and engineering challenges posed by the depth of the water, the struggle to pinpoint optimal siting, the forces of the wind and the waves, and the density of the seabed. There are financing challenges in locating start-up funding, determining the nature of ownership, securing leases, loans, and sufficient operating capital, and insuring the whole enterprise. There are the legal challenges of negotiating contractual arrangements for connecting to the power grid and selling the power to utilities or other users as well as the environmental and other regulatory permitting processes and appeals. This course provides a comprehensive look at the legal, transactional, practical lawyering and regulatory issues associated with the sustainable development and project financing of off-shore energy projects, emphasizing wind and hydrokinetics, but also drawing on experience with on-shore wind, solar and geo-thermal energy. Students successfully completing this course will be better prepared for transactional practice in a burgeoning field.

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS - LAW 809

The course will explore corporate acquisitions, including mergers and consolidations, in the form of asset sale, stock sale, or statutory merger. The consequences of these transactions will be discussed, including, potentially, successor liability, securities regulations, antitrust, tax, accounting, environmental, intellectual property, ERISA, and other legal issues. Due diligence review, negotiation, and documentation will also be discussed. **Business Organizations is a prerequisite.**

OCEAN & COASTAL LAW - LAW 674

The areas in which oceans and their branches and land masses meet are the source of many relationships largely peculiar to those areas. Sea level rise, global warming and effects on our oceans, coastal resilience and retreat options from mega storms like Sandy and Katrina, wetlands protection, environment and ecological issues, the position of the area in terms of industry and commerce including such international rules as those governing fisheries, whaling and other trapping and hunting, are a part of the special problems facing this zone and the areas of water and land nearby. The course examines the various legal regimes with a consideration of policy issues that are involved in the complex relationships generated in these areas.

PRIVACY LAW - LAW 677

This course introduces students to the various frameworks of law governing the collection, use, access and disclosure of private sector data. Students will learn the Fair Information Practice Principles and the laws and regulations administering these principles by area of sensitive data: identity, medical, financial, education, and sales and marketing. Other topics include state privacy laws and legal limitations on government and court access to private-sector information. This course will also cover information tested for certification as a Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP).

PRODUCTS LIABILITY - LAW 742

This course explores tortious injuries engendered by products, a predominant basis of modern tort litigation. Students will discuss the nature of product defect- manufacturing, design and marketing imperfections—and the various theories of liability—risk/utility and consumer expectation models. Finally, this course will examine contemporary products liability issues including the nature of products and their associated services, as well as the predicted return to a fault-based system of liability.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE – LAW 831

This course is intended to introduce students to the growing field of corporate compliance. Students will learn the fundamental elements of an effective corporate compliance program and will analyze the practical and legal issues involved in designing, implementing and operating such a program. A compliance program is an organization's policies, procedures, and practices designed to create an ethical corporate culture and to prevent and detect wrongdoing.

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE - LAW 810

This class will take an in-depth look into the typical residential real estate transaction. Analysis will range from parsing individual clauses of a standard Purchase and Sales Agreement, to conducting a complete title examination, to understanding the broad spectrum of primary and secondary mortgage markets and products. The emphasis of the class will be on a practical approach making cognizant distinctions between legalities and practicalities.

SALES - LAW 652

This course focuses primarily on Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code. A study of the law governing the sale of goods and financing thereof is covered including the law governing the formation and interpretation of commercial contracts, perfection of security interests and available remedies upon breach of contract. Implied and express warranties, risk of loss allocation and default are discussed.

SECURED TRANSACTIONS - LAW 653

This course surveys Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code and focuses on financing and creation of a security interest in personal property and fixtures.

SEXUALITY AND THE LAW - LAW 721

This course explores aspects of the legal regulation of sexuality. Among the questions on which we will focus throughout the semester are these: How has sexuality (and related notions such as sexuality and gender) been defined, posed and addressed as a problem in and for the U.S. legal system? What role do various conceptions of sexuality play in framing the terms, the argumentative strategies and resolution of legal disputes? What shaping functions do legal constructions of sexuality exert in and on broader political conversations about sex and social justice in the contemporary U.S.? Topics to be discussed include the scope and limits of the “public/private” distinction as a conceptual framework in U.S. sex law; legal efforts to define and distinguish sex, gender and sexuality, sexual acts, gender identities and expressions (male, female, transgender, transsexual, intersex), and sexual identities (“homosexuality,” “heterosexuality,” and “bisexuality”); law, sexuality and intimate association; sexuality, gender, and reproduction; gender, sexuality, surveillance and citizenship; law, sexuality, kinship and family relations; gender identity, sexuality and the legal construction, and regulation, of the human body; sex.

WILLS AND TRUSTS - LAW 749

This course is intended to prepare a student to advise clients about ordering their personal and financial affairs to more effectively provide for themselves and the people about whom they care. Various dispositive mechanisms inter vivos testamentary and in trust, will be covered, as well as devices to appoint health care and financial proxies. The course will also address the ethical and professional responsibilities of lawyers representing clients in this area.

SEMINARS

CIVIL RIGHTS – LSM 729

This course focuses on constitutional tort damage actions brought against federal and state officials and governments based on 42 U.S.C. §1983 and the United States Constitution. Attention will be given to both the substantive constitutional rights that form the basis of the damages actions and to the procedure, defenses, and immunities that pertain to constitutional torts.

CLIMATE CHANGE & LAW - LSM 888

This course explores the impact that climatic changes are having, and will continue to have, on law and policy in the United States. Recent reports anticipate increased climate change impacts including water scarcity and decreased quality, ocean warming and acidification, sea level rise and coastal impacts, extreme weather events, risks to public health, increased forest wildfires, and national security risks. Coastal states on the forefront for these climate change impacts. Many coastal states are beginning to address adaptation through changes in law and policy. This course will examine the framework for federal and state policy and law changes to adapt to climate change, and the status of efforts throughout the United States. While the focus will be on efforts within the nation in coastal areas, the course will briefly discuss non-coastal and international climate change laws and policies. Students will be evaluated based on class participation and a paper that can fulfill their writing requirements.

PATENT LAW - LSM 744

Creativity and productive ideas have proven essential to economic progress. The federal government has developed an elaborate set of laws and regulations to protect these ideas from appropriation by others. This body of law, and elements of the practice under it, will be covered in detail. The patent law seminar includes elements of US and foreign patentability standards, perfection of patent rights, enforcement (litigation and ADR, border controls), relation to other bodies of law and practice such as antitrust, employment, corporate finance, licensing and joint ventures, federal civil procedure and evidence, international law, legal ethics, trademark, copyright, trade secret and Constitutional law. A background of science or technology education or experience can be helpful but is not required. Practical exercises in analyzing inventions and patents are given during the semester. The seminar grade is based primarily on a term paper due at the beginning of the exam period with some adjustment for class participation.

COURSES THAT MEET THE EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

(THE CLINICAL COURSES LISTED BELOW ALSO COUNT TOWARD SATISFACTION OF THE EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT)

ADVANCED ADVOCACY: CRIMINAL LAW - LAW 680

This course focuses on the art of persuasion, with attention paid to both written and oral advocacy. Students will have an opportunity to write from either prosecution or defense perspectives. Using transcripts of two actual criminal trials – one raising 4th Amendment issues and the other exploring 5th Amendment *Miranda* law – we look at how the choice of language impacts persuasion. Words count! When do we choose to call a defendant “Ms. Smith,” when “Jacqueline,” when “Jackie” and when “the young woman”? Do we refer to “the prosecution” or “the State” or “the government” or the prosecutor by name? Do we say, “Despite the late hour, she claimed she was alert and watching carefully out the window,” or do we say, “She testified she was awake and looking out the window at 2:14 a.m.”? Or even, “Apparently wide awake and unable to sleep at 2:14 a.m., she was intently peering out the window.” What difference does it make? We stress creating themes, supporting them with propositions, and crafting messages to sell those propositions. We will also spend time on issue selection and framing: how does framing influence success? Issue analysis, creative reasoning, research skills and persuasive organization are all part of the advocacy process. The class is conducted as a writing workshop. You will write drafts, we will review and discuss them, and you will have the benefit of instructor and peer comments in refining your graded product. We will also look at research techniques and focus on using both good and bad cases to our advantage. By the end of the course, you will have written two short appellate briefs. No exam or final paper; all work will be completed by the final class.

ADVANCED LEGAL RESEARCH - LAW 860

A survey of legal and law-related research resources not covered in the first-year Legal Methods classes, including federal legislative history, administrative law research, looseleaf services, practice materials, and law-related digital resources. There will be an emphasis on research strategy and process and on the integration of print and digital sources. Students will complete exercises in class in a workshop format; there will also be advanced training classes in computer-assisted legal research. Assignments will consist of problem sets covering topics and resources discussed in class.

ADVANCED TRIAL ADVOCACY– LAW 702

This course will take a criminal case as the jumping off point. Students will learn how to prepare and try a complex case. The class will focus on trial technique and strategy using cutting edge trial techniques and theories. Students will be evaluated based upon class participation and role playing in mock trial during the last two sessions of the class. Trial Advocacy is a prerequisite.

ESTATE PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION - LAW 754

This course deals with the practical application of estate planning principles to various client situations. Topics include client interviews; estate planning for young adults, individuals contemplating marriage, unmarried couples, young couples with children, and older clients with children; transfers to grandchildren; planning for second marriages; asset protection; retirement planning; perpetual trusts; charitable gifts; and an overview of estate administration. **Wills and Trusts is a prerequisite.**

LEGAL PRACTICE III - LAW 646

This course is designed to provide in-depth instruction in legal writing and analysis, and to help prepare students for legal practice. Students will complete a series of in-class and take-home exercises and will receive feedback on their writing throughout the semester. In addition, students will meet individually with their professor to discuss assignments, and to enhance their writing and analytical skills.

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING & ADVOCACY - LAW 757

Our lives are bordered by statutes. This course will teach the fundamentals of enacting statutes from policy concept to enacted legislation at the State level. Topics to be covered include bill and resolution drafting; effective Committee presentations; ethical and regulatory reporting issues; and campaign finance. Students will draft bills, advocacy pieces to legislators, reports to clients, and grassroots issue coordination plans.

MEDIATION - LAW 733

When parties are unable to resolve their dispute through discussion or negotiation, a logical next step is to seek the assistance of a third party mediator to facilitate communication and the search for a solution. This course is intended to familiarize students with the norms of the mediation process and to develop the skills that will enable students to either serve as mediators or to better represent clients in this increasingly important form of ADR. Attention is given to both facilitative and evaluative styles of mediation. Significant emphasis is placed on role playing exercises and on the legal consequences of the mediation process.

SEA GRANT LAW FELLOW PROGRAM

Students enrolled in this program work under the professor's supervision on a legal research project on behalf of an outside organization. Projects are assigned by the professor and will focus on a specific research question related to ocean and coastal law or maritime law. Law Fellows have the opportunity to work with stakeholders on important issues, to gain in-depth substantive knowledge on the applicable law and its real-world application, and to draft a high-quality written product, and may have the opportunity to present their work in a professional setting. Certain projects can satisfy the Graduation Writing Requirement. Law Fellows must dedicate a minimum of 10 hours per week during the semester, but hours are flexible. The professor's permission is required to register.

TECHNOLOGY AND LAW PRACTICE - LAW 717

This course surveys software systems that embody specialized legal knowledge and know-how, considers the role of technology on lawyering and the legal services delivery system, and provides hands-on instruction in current technologies including document assembly, automated client interviews, social media marketing, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, data analytics, project management, and virtual law practice. The course will also examine the burgeoning literature on the practicalities and ethics of "e-lawyering," with attention to the ABA's Model Rules of Professional Conduct. Student projects will provide hands-on experience in current technologies with broad application in public interest and pro bono contexts, as well as application appropriate to solo and small firm practitioners.

TRANSACTIONAL LAWYERING AND CONTRACT DRAFTING – LAW 756

This course teaches all of the foundational skills of transactional lawyering, from advising and counseling business clients to the highest professional and ethical standards, to analyzing and drafting contracts to reflect the parties' deal, objectives, and concerns. Students learn to understand a transaction through both its legal and business issues. In learning the process of drafting a contract, students learn to understand a client's deal and then translate the deal into contract concepts that become the building blocks of the contract. Through exercises, simulations, and projects, students then learn to draft clear, careful, unambiguous provisions in a well-organized, readable, complete contract. Students learn how to add value to the contracted deal by drafting language or structuring the deal so that it shifts the risk levels for each party. Students also learn the art of analyzing, reviewing and commenting on drafted contracts using current practices and technologies. The class involves group exercises, simulations, and role play, as well as lecture. The type of contracts covered are relevant to most transactional law practices.

TRIAL ADVOCACY - LAW 641

The trial advocacy course employs a learning-by-doing approach. Thus, most of the course will involve the practice of trial skills including direct and cross examination, opening statements, closing arguments, and jury selection, in a simulated courtroom environment. During the last two weeks of the course, each student will participate as co-counsel in a full-length simulated civil or criminal trial with a sitting Rhode Island judge or professor presiding.

Evidence is a prerequisite but may be taken concurrently with the permission of the Trial Advocacy instructor.

CLINICS & EXTERNSHIPS

BUSINESS STARTUP CLINIC - LAW 869

The Roger Williams University Community Economic Development Clinic, our newest clinical offering, is scheduled to open in the fall semester of 2013. The focus of the clinic will be to provide services to small, low-income and start-up businesses and not-for-profit organizations in Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts. Students enrolled in the clinic will work with small business owners in determining and facilitating their legal needs. This will include selecting the best legal entity, assisting with the filing of organizational documents, creating agreements, and drafting leases and other contracts. The primary goal of the clinic will be to teach the practice of transactional lawyering while providing service to under-served entrepreneurs and organizations.

CORPORATE COUNSEL CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP & CORPORATE COUNSEL SEMINAR - LAW 797

Students are assigned to in-house corporate offices of prominent for-profit and not-for-profit entities in and around Rhode Island and southern New England. Students will conduct legal research, write memoranda of law, draft legal documents, and engage in other activities as assigned. Students will be exposed to the various ways in which law is practiced in-house and for corporate clients. The program requires the devotion of substantial amounts of time both in and out of the assigned office and must be taken in conjunction with Seminar: In-House Counsel.

CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC - LAW 860

Students represent indigent criminal defendants in Rhode Island District Court and Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal from arraignment through to final trial or other original adjudicative disposition. **Trial Advocacy is a prerequisite.**

ENVIRONMENTAL/LAND USE CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP & ENVIRONMENTAL/LAND USE SEMINAR - LAW 806

Through the Environmental and Land Use Law Clinical Externship, students train in legal offices or departments of government agencies and non-government organizations doing environmental and land use legal work in Rhode Island and southern New England. Externs are exposed to the various ways in which environmental and land use law is practiced by government agencies and non-government organizations through litigation, administrative rulemaking and adjudication, and engagement in the legislative process. The students also participate in a two-credit, graded seminar "Advanced Topics in Environmental and Land Use Law" that will be designed by the professor, after consultation with the field supervisors, to teach substantive law, regulation, and policy directly relevant to the students' field work, as well as the ethics and legal skills required of an environmental attorney.

JUDICIAL CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP & JUDICIAL PROCESS SEMINAR - LAW 796

Students are assigned to selected judges in Rhode Island and federal trial and appellate courts. The student externs conduct legal research, prepare memoranda of law, observe trial and appellate proceedings, participate in discussions with the court, and perform the duties of a judicial law clerk under the supervision of the assigned judge and a faculty member. The program requires the devotion of substantial amounts of time both in and out of the judge's chambers and must be taken in conjunction with Seminar: Judicial Process and Ethics.

IMMIGRATION CLINIC - LAW 870

Students enrolled in the immigration clinic represent noncitizens in their applications for relief from removal before the Immigration Court in Boston, prepare applications for benefits under the immigration laws and represent noncitizens in their interviews for such benefits before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Providence. Types of cases typically include asylum and other relief based on fear of persecution in the country of removal, waivers of deportation for long-term residents of the U.S., adjustment of status for noncitizens with U.S. citizen or permanent resident family members and relief for noncitizen victims of domestic violence. Students also conduct “Know Your Rights” presentations for the immigrant communities in Rhode Island and for immigration detainees in New England, conduct intake interviews following these presentations and provide consultations under the supervision of the Clinic Director. In class, students learn trial skills and discuss substantive, ethical and policy issues relating to the practice of immigration law.

NY PRO BONO SCHOLARS PROGRAM & PROSECUTION SEMINAR – LAW 821

The New York Pro Bono Scholars Program (NYPBSP) bridges law school education and the practice of law while engaging students in the provision of critical legal assistance to low-income people. Students will provide approximately 520 hours of pro bono legal service over a 12-week period for which they will receive 12 fieldwork credits. In addition, students will take a two-credit weekly seminar on pro bono practice, access to justice and public interest lawyering. The field work will be graded Pass/Fail. The seminar will be graded.

PUBLIC INTEREST CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP & PUBLIC INTEREST LAWYERING SEMINAR - LAW 798

Students are assigned to state or federal government agencies or to non-profit legal services organizations. The student clerks conduct legal research, prepare memoranda of law, observe administrative, trial or appellate proceedings, participate in discussions with public officials, and perform the duties of a law clerk under the supervision of a supervising attorney and a faculty member. Students in their final year of school may also appear in court on behalf of the state or clients in limited types of proceedings. The program requires the devotion of substantial amounts of time both in and out of the assigned office and must be taken in conjunction with Seminar: Public Interest Lawyering and Ethics.

VETERANS DISABILITY APPEALS FIELD CLINIC – LAW 876

The Veterans Disability Appeals Field Clinic is a one semester program in which law students represent military veterans whose applications for disability benefits have either been denied or granted at a level that is inappropriate to the level of disability. Working with experienced attorneys from Chisholm, Chisholm & Kilpatrick, a nationally recognized law firm specializing in this work, students will research and draft legal memoranda and briefs, participate in pre-briefing conferences and, when appropriate, argue cases before the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

HONORS ENROLLMENT PERSPECTIVES COURSES

ANCIENT SLAVERY AND MODERN IDEOLOGY – LSM 856

In this perspectives course we'll read the discussion of late ancient historian, Sir Moses Finley, of how slave societies of classical Greece and Roman Italy came into being and what allowed them to prosper. Finley's book examines ancient slave societies in comparison with the slave societies that existed in Brazil, the Caribbean, and North America and how modern ideological interests have affected the understanding of ancient slavery. In addition, we'll read two essays by Finley in response to the debates provoked by his work as well as another essay that puts Finley's work in the context of late 20th century historical research on slavery. No prior knowledge of ancient history is required or will be assumed.

CLERKING AND APPELLATE PRACTICE: CHOOSING THE RIGHT LENS THROUGH WHICH TO EXAMINE LEGAL ISSUES – LSM 856

Appellate courts view the legal issues presented to them through an issue-dependent, specific lens: the applicable standard of review. When you start a judicial externship or a clerkship, the degree to which you understand the role of the standard of review and the way to apply it to the relevant law determines how quickly you can draft accurate legal analyses for your judge. But the standard of review is often (necessarily) glossed over in your doctrinal classes in favor of getting to the details of the legal principle up for discussion. This seminar class is designed to bridge the gap between the direct application of a legal framework and an appellate argument with the correct lens (or set of lenses). This seminar class will include discussions and applications of appellate standards of review (e.g., abuse of discretion, de novo, clear error) as well as the implications of failure to properly preserve an appellate issue. We will also go over dispositive motion standards (for motions to dismiss and motions for summary judgment) and the practical applications of these motion standards. To guide our discussions, you'll be reading case briefs, state and federal court opinions, law review articles, and examples of applications of the standards to hypothetical situations. This seminar will be helpful for students who wish to intern and/or clerk with a state or federal judge, as well as for students who want to work in civil litigation.

COMPLEX LITIGATION: STATION FIRE LITIGATION – LSM 856

This class will explore the station fire litigation in its depth, including some of the many interesting and complex legal, factual, expert witness, and mediation issues that arose. Several victims will come to class to explain their views of what happened both factually and legally in what was one of the most, if not the most, complex cases ever filed in Rhode Island. The results were obtained due to a team effort by a small number of plaintiff's law firms. Several of those lawyers will attend to explain the division of responsibilities and their particular roles.

U.S. SUPREME COURT CASES – LSM 856

This course will focus on the art of appellate advocacy with particular focus on two cases that will be argued this spring before the United States Supreme Court. The class will be taught by Professor Jared Goldstein and will include a trip to the Court to hear those two cases argued.

VOICE OF THE CHILD - GUARDIAN IN FAMILY COURT – LSM 856

This course taught by Adjunct Professor Teresa Paiva Weed will review the role of the Guardian ad Litem in both domestic cases as well as child abuse and neglect cases. The class will include an overview of the law and its practical application in a variety of custody disputes, including religious and education disagreements and relocation issues.

OPEN ENROLLMENT PERSPECTIVES COURSES

LEADERSHIP FOR LAWYERS – LSM.856

Leadership for Lawyers is an experiential course which will ask students to consider their own values and identities to develop their leadership skills and professional identities. We will consider whether the servant leader approach articulated by Robert Greenleaf is a model for the attorney-client relationship, the application of the 5 practices of Kouzes and Posner (modelling the way, inspiring a vision, challenging the process, empowering others and celebrating the heart) to lawyers. Students will study role of the lawyer as an agent and moral actor through simulations of problems and exercises as well as readings by Oliver Wendell Holmes's "Bad Man" Theory, David Luhan on the moral role of lawyers and Kathleen Kruse's article, "Beyond Cardboard Clients in Legal Ethics" about the importance of understanding a client's purposes and culture. Students will consider why lawyers who are most the most successful and fulfilled in their careers are most often leaders and who serve not only their organizations but also the legal professions and their communities.

PROFESSIONAL LEGAL WRITING – LSM.856

In this course, which will function as part seminar and part workshop, students will explore the relationship between form and content in legal writing and employ the techniques learned to craft high-quality writing samples. Specifically, this course will review the foundational elements of writing—such as grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure—and guide students as they sculpt the structural components of their texts to match the ideas they express. More than an elaborate editing session, this course will also introduce more-sophisticated writing concepts like semiotics, prosody, and classical rhetoric to have students consider and refine not only their writing, but also their thoughts and opinions. Writing and revision will be required for, and likely in, each class but, if done with care, should result in a finely crafted and cohesive professional composition.

SENIOR ABUSE NEGLECT AND INJURIES – LSM.856

Litigation involving nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and financial exploitation of the elderly is an expanding and complicated area of civil litigation. These cases provide a complex interaction between traditional tort law as embodied in medical malpractice cases along with contract issues, corporate law, access to the civil justice system and an understanding of state and federal regulations. This course will provide an academic and practical analysis of this complex niche practice area.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND THE LAW – LSM.856

This course introduces students to various frameworks of the law, questions of liability and recent litigation related to artificial intelligence (AI) and virtual reality (VR), biometrics and facial recognition, unmanned aerial systems (UAS or drones), autonomous vehicles, telemedicine, smart cities and advertising through social media. Students will learn about state and federal laws and regulations (and proposed laws and regulations) related to the privacy and security of these technological innovations. Students will discuss laws ranging from the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Part 107 Small UAS rule to the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act. Students will also explore the role of law in responding to, regulating and promoting, these new and emerging technologies.