

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SUMMER 2022

DOCTRINAL COURSES:

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE: INVESTIGATION

This course examines the procedural aspects of the criminal justice system with emphasis on the impact of the fourth, fifth, and sixth amendments to the United States Constitution on state and federal prosecutions. Topics include the law of arrest, search and seizure, police interrogation and the privilege against self-incrimination. This is a required second year course.

LEGAL PRACTICE III

LP III continues to develop students' "client-ready" lawyering skills. Students represent a client in a case involving a trade secret throughout the semester. We begin with a research assignment designed as an intra-office memorandum to a supervising partner (LP professor). That assignment is followed by a client interview; a second research assignment with an oral presentation of the research findings to the supervising attorney; and an objective letter drafted to the client to discuss the client's likelihood of establishing a trade secret claim. Thereafter, we shift to persuasive writing and draft a demand letter to the opposing party/attorney. As with LP I and LP II, students will have multiple opportunities to conference with the LP professor and rewrite the major writing assignments.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

This course analyzes the responsibility of lawyers and judges from the perspectives of the rules and case law, the profession and the client/consumer. Topics include the historical, political, and sociological bases of legal ethics; conflicts of interest; attorney-client privilege; admission to the bar; disciplinary matters and procedures; unauthorized practice of law; attitudes toward bench and bar; professional liability; and canons of ethics and codes of professional responsibility. This is a required second year course.

BAR TESTED ELECTIVE COURSES:

FAMILY LAW

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.

SALES

This course provides an introduction to the law related to the sale of goods (moveable personal property) under Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code ("UCC"). Topics to be covered include: formation, terms, performance, risk of loss, express and implied warranties, disclaimers, breach, and remedies of the aggrieved buyer and seller. The course assumes familiarity with basic contract principles, though core concepts will be reviewed.

OTHER ELECTIVE COURSES:

COLLISION AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

This course will consider the rules of liability and the allocation of damages for collisions (two or more vessels hitting each other) and allisions (a vessel hitting a stationary object) under US Maritime Law, including the rules and regulations for navigation and the Admiralty Extension Act. We'll then look at how the rules for allocating liability interact with the ability of vessel owners to limit their liability under the Shipowners Limitation of Liability Act, the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, and the Oli Pollution Act of 1990.

SEMINARS:

CLIMATE CHANGE

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 are 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 requirement.

COURSES THAT SATISFY THE UPPER-LEVEL LEGAL PRACTICE REQUIREMENT

CONTRACT DRAFTING AND TRANSACTIONAL LAWYERING

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.

FAMILY AND DIVORCE MEDIATION

This course is intended to provide the student with an understanding of the contexts in which family conflict arises, the various legal and practical issues in play when families disintegrate,

and with in-depth training in the skills that a mediator might employ to help the divorcing parties resolve their differences. The course exposes the student to relevant factors and normative approaches used by courts in dividing property, determining child support, custody, visitation, and spousal support among other issues, while recognizing that parties in mediation are empowered to reach their own agreements with the aid of the mediator. Role playing exercises are used to integrate theory with practice.

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.

PERSPECTIVES COURSES:

SPIRITUAL DIMENSIONS OF LAWYERING

This course will be taught by Professor Colleen Murphy explores a lawyer's identity and purpose beyond the "material" aspects of practicing law. The readings in the course, evidencing a variety of religious and secular perspectives, address topics such as the integration of deeply-held personal values into the practice of law; clients who have deeply held values that are in tension with the dominant values of the legal system; exploring with the client whether justice, peace, or reconciliation is the client's true goal; and the extent to which a lawyer might engage the client in moral conversation.

EXTERNSHIPS

SUMMER CLINICAL EXTERNSHIP SEMINAR

The Summer Clinical Externship Program is designed to help law students maximize their professional development and legal skills development through a structured curricular externship experience over the summer. This summer's program will be a combined group of public interest, prosecution, government and/or corporate counsel externs. If you are looking for a [specialized program](#) where the seminar content will be specifically tailored to a single practice area, like the Corporate Counsel, Judicial, Prosecution & Government, Public Interest (Direct service to low income clients) or the Environmental and Land Use Externship Programs, you should apply to participate during the Fall or Spring semesters.

Externship placements include internships with legal services offices, public defender's offices, certain non-profit agencies engaged in public interest legal work, prosecutor's offices, government agencies and corporate counsel offices. Internships at private law firms are not allowed as externship placements. Placements may be local or remote. All placements must be vetted and approved by the Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning before a student can officially be accepted into the summer program.

Students selected to participate in the summer externship program can choose to receive a total of 6-8 credits through a combination of ungraded fieldwork credits and 2 graded seminar credits.

In limited circumstances, students may be permitted to earn up to 10 credits by permission of the Assistant Dean of Experiential Education. In addition to fieldwork hours, students must participate in a weekly two-and-a-half hour seminar class on Tuesdays from 6-8:30 pm (Zoom).

The Summer Clinical Externship Program is open to 2Ls ONLY and students graduating the December following the summer program.

NOTE REGARDING PAY: RWU Law allows students to accept pay (including stipends) while earning academic credit for externships.