

Selected Course Descriptions/Information for Spring 2021

This document provides a description for some courses (like seminars) that are not described in the online course catalog, or for which we'd like to provide you some additional information.

Seminar Descriptions

924. Nonprofit Organizations, Dean Coles (3 credits). This seminar will analyze major aspects of federal and state law affecting nonprofit organizations such as universities, hospitals, churches, cultural institutions, charities and advocacy groups. These institutions play an important role in the economic, cultural, political and social fabric of the nation, and their organization and operation raise complex legal and policy issues that cut across a variety of fields such as constitutional, corporate and tax, and property law. The seminar will focus on laws and policies governing the formation, operation, and dissolution or conversion of nonprofit organizations, as well as the policies behind the tax exemptions enjoyed by many of these organizations. As part of the writing requirement, seminar participants may elect a "practice" element in which the procedures for setting up a nonprofit organization, obtaining a tax exemption, and beginning operations are applied to a hypothetical client's situation in an area of interest to the student writer.

927. Employment Discrimination, Professor Oswalt (3 credits). The best way of understanding how the law regulates discrimination in the workplace is to explore where the regime falls short. The traditional Civil Rights Act framework is best suited to catch overt prejudice, but in many modern settings discrimination does not actually operate that way, what good is the statute? This is the core challenge of discrimination law today. It is also the organizing principle for the seminar, where we will consider the question from a variety of angles, including historically and through the lens of implicit bias, social closure, privilege, non-disclosure/disparagement agreements, covering, and code-switching.

928. Privacy Law, Professor Omari (3 credits). Today's headlines are filled with reports of new threats and invasions of privacy from governments, corporations, and hackers (both individual and collective) who have access to and control over our personal information. Under the auspices of national security and fighting crime, governments wiretap computer and telephone networks; corporations track our digital footprints to sell us targeted advertising; and hackers hack into our computers and mobile phones to spy on us and steal our identities. All of these actors take advantage of new technology, using the Internet and breaches in "Big Data" security, to efficiently victimize citizens. Why does the public seem so indifferent about many of these new threats? How should policymakers respond to these privacy dangers? How do we strike a balance between privacy and security? This course will explore all of these questions and more.

This course will explore the history of US privacy law, its evolution in the 20th Century, and the challenges of regulating information in the digital era where individuals and institutions both need and reveal information constantly. In our attempts to understand the balance between

information disclosure and privacy, we will draw from case law and recent developments in the high-tech field to examine and study privacy law in all of its relevant forms, including torts, contracts, property, constitutional law, and statutory law. Upon successful completion of this course, students will therefore have a requisite understanding of the principles of information privacy law.

929. Technology and Crime, Professor Williams (3 credits). In this writing seminar, students will have the opportunity to review, research, and analyze the criminal concerns and legal risks that come with the use of current and emerging technologies whether by criminals, law enforcement or the criminal justice system. Technological innovation has impacted every aspect of criminal law, ranging from law enforcement, court procedures, constitutional interpretation to brand-new types of crimes that evolved with the expansion of these innovations. For example, technological advancements have changed the way law enforcement operates and the training of officers in the field. Law enforcement's use of various technologies from body cameras, to mobile phone GPS histories, to facial recognition artificial intelligence, have proven to be beneficial as well as highly controversial and flawed. Constitutional questions abound regarding right to privacy and electronic surveillance. Technology has changed the procedural and evidentiary rules of the criminal courts and how crimes are prosecuted. Traditional crimes have become more complex and difficult to police with the advent of technology. Brand-new cybercrimes have emerged that leverage new technologies, such as, cryptocurrency money laundering, social media deception and cyberbullying, hacking, ransomware and identity theft. And, due to the interconnectivity of the internet, many of these crimes have interstate and global concerns that must be addressed by criminal lawyers and the courts. Your interest in this subject matter and desire to write about it could not be timelier. Your final work in this seminar could truly contribute to this new canon of legal research grappling with the fast pacing demands of technology upon our society.

Notes on Other Courses

676. Bar Fundamentals Workshop (2 credits). Those students who are not ranked in the top 25 percent of their class at the end of the spring semester of their second year of law school are required to enroll in and pass the Bar Fundamentals Workshop during the spring semester of their third year of law school (if they plan to graduate in May).

710. Legal Analysis: Skills & Strategies (2 credits). Those students who have the ten lowest cumulative GPAs in their class at the end of the spring semester of the second year of law school are required to enroll in the Legal Analysis: Skills and Strategies course during the fall or spring semester of their third year of law school. All students who are graduating in December of their third year must take the course in the fall semester of their third year. The remaining slots in this limited enrollment course will be open to all members of the third-year class. If the class is over-subscribed, enrollment preference will be given to students ranked in the bottom half of their class at the end of the spring semester of their second year of law school.

This course focuses on instruction designed to help students improve their test-taking skills for each of the three components of the bar examination: multiple choice questions, essay questions and the Multistate Performance Test (MPT). Basic skills such as outlining, memorizing, organization and analysis will be reviewed and assessed. Other skills, including time-management and self-assessment, will also be addressed. This course is pass/fail.

725. Trial Advocacy (3 credits). This course meets twice a week. There are two sections of the course. All students in each section will be enrolled in a common classroom session that is taught online synchronously. When you enroll, you must select one weekly courtroom session (which may have the option of meeting in-person or online)—*either* the section that meets on Thursdays from 12:30 to 2:20 p.m. *or* the section that meets on Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:50 p.m. Please be sure to add your name to the waitlist if enrollment fills up! There is an excellent chance we will open up another section *if* there is an appreciable number of students who are on the waitlist.

Mandatory Bar Courses

As noted in the cover email, all students who possess a grade point average below 2.60 at the end of the spring semester of their 1L year must take and pass six “bar courses” prior to graduation:

- Business Associations I (offered in fall and spring);
- Criminal Procedure: Police Investigations (offered in spring);
- Evidence (offered in fall and spring);
- Family Law (offered in spring);
- Secured Transactions (offered in fall); and
- Trusts & Estates (offered in spring).

This requirement must be met by students who matriculated in fall 2017 and later.