

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW

Master of Jurisprudence
Course Descriptions

Updated 2022

Required Core:

LW5601 Fundamentals of American Law (2 Credits)

This course is intended to be a brief introduction to the American legal system, a broad overview of its structure, and an initiation to legal reasoning and the application of common (judge-made) and statutory law to various circumstances. This will include discussions of case briefing, legal analysis, and the similarities and differences between the various classes of public and private law in the United States. Finally, the course will introduce several key areas of law that are particularly important for students in their first year of legal education

LW6602 Legal Research and Writing (2 credits)

In these courses, students are introduced to the processes of case analysis, legal research, and legal writing. Written exercises are required, including the drafting of legal documents.

First Year Courses:

LW5311 Constitutional Law (4 Credits)

This course introduces students to the United States Constitution. Topics include: the power of courts to interpret and apply the Constitution; the distribution of powers in the federal system, including the division of power among the three federal branches (separation of powers), and the division of power between the federal and state governments (federalism); and the protection of an individual's liberties from governmental interference. The individual liberty topic includes a discussion of the concept of state action and congressional enforcement of civil rights; substantive rights emanating from specific provisions of the Constitution, including the freedom of speech, religion and association; the right to equal protection of the laws; and those rights that are protected by, though not expressly mentioned in, the Constitution.

LW6440 Constitutional Law (4 Credits)

This course introduces students to the United States Constitution. Topics include: the power of courts to interpret and apply the Constitution; the distribution of powers in the federal system, including the division of power among the three federal branches (separation of powers), and the division of power between the federal and state governments (federalism); and the protection of an individual's liberties from governmental interference. The individual liberty topic includes a discussion of the concept of state action and congressional enforcement of civil rights; substantive rights emanating from specific provisions of the Constitution, including the freedom of speech, religion and association; the right to equal protection of the laws; and those rights that are protected by, though not expressly mentioned in, the Constitution.

LW5403 Contracts (4 Credits)

Contracts is the foundation commercial law course that examines the law of voluntary exchange. Major themes include enforceable and unenforceable promises, remedies for broken promises, and interpretation of agreements. Topics include

consideration; contract formation; capacity; duress; unconscionability and illegality; damages; conditions; mistake; impracticability and frustration; third party beneficiaries; assignment and delegation; the Parole Evidence Rule; and the Statute of Frauds.

LW6490 Contracts (4 Credits)

Contracts is the foundation commercial law course that examines the law of voluntary exchange. Major themes include enforceable and unenforceable promises, remedies for broken promises, and interpretation of agreements. Topics include: consideration; contract formation; capacity; duress; unconscionability and illegality; damages; conditions; mistake; impracticability and frustration; third party beneficiaries; assignment and delegation; the Parole Evidence Rule; and the Statute of Frauds. Attention is devoted to Article II of the Uniform Commercial Code.

LW6341 Criminal Law (3 Credits)

Criminal Law is the basic course on public offenses. Students study the requisites of criminal responsibility, defenses to liability, and inchoate and group crimes.

LW6477 Federal Civil Procedure (4 Credits)

This course introduces students to constitutional limits on judicial power and to the theory and practice of civil procedure under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Topics include jurisdiction to adjudicate the liabilities of nonresident defendants; the structure and limited power of federal courts; and the stages of litigation (including pleadings; motion practice, and the pretrial disposition of cases; formal discovery; and the trial process).

LW5404 Property (4 Credits)

Property (4 credits) introduces students to the legal concept of property. Basic concepts of entitlement and transfer of rights are explored in detail. Topics include: possession; estates and future interests; landlord and tenant; public regulation of land use and ownership (as in zoning and eminent domain); non-possessory interests in and regulation of land (including easements, real covenants and servitudes); and transfer of property by gift or sale.

LW6480 Property (4 Credits)

Property (4 credits) introduces students to the legal concept of property. Basic concepts of entitlement and transfer of rights are explored in detail. Topics include: possession; estates and future interests; landlord and tenant; public regulation of land use and ownership (as in zoning and eminent domain); non-possessory interests in and regulation of land (including easements, real covenants and servitudes); and transfer of property by gift or sale.

LW5402 Torts (4 Credits)

Torts focuses on the legal principles and public policies governing compensation for personal injuries, property damage, emotional distress, and other forms of serious harm. Topics include: the concepts of intent, negligence, and strict liability;

defenses based on the plaintiff's conduct; causation and damages; vicarious liability; privileges; immunities; and statutes of limitations.

LW6478 Torts (4 Credits)

Torts focuses on the legal principles and public policies governing compensation for personal injuries, property damage, emotional distress, and other forms of serious harm. Topics include: the concepts of intent, negligence, and strict liability; defenses based on the plaintiffs conduct; causation and damages; vicarious liability; privileges; immunities; and statutes of limitations.

Upper-Level Courses:

LW7374 Administrative Law (3 Credits)

This course explores problems raised by the functioning of administrative tribunals in governmental rule-making, adjudication, investigation, and enforcement. There is a special emphasis upon procedure and the relationship between administrative agencies and the judicial system.

LW5302 Administrative Law and Regulatory Interpretation (3 Credits)

This course explores problems raised by the functioning of administrative tribunals in governmental rule-making, regulatory interpretation, investigation, and enforcement. There is a special emphasis upon rule-making, interpretation and the relationship between administrative agencies and the judicial system.

LW7385 Admiralty and Maritime Law (3 Credits)

This course deals with both jurisdictional issues (in contract and tort, as well as state v. federal questions) and substantive maritime law. Topics covered include maritime liens, carriage of goods, salvage, collisions at sea, and the law of maritime accidents.

LW8780 Advanced Constitutional Law (3 Credits)

This course concerns the rules, policies, and themes that prevail in cases involving the First Amendment's protection of the freedom of speech. Students will consider the values served by the freedom to speak and the justifications for limiting that freedom. The class will, for example, discuss whether government should restrict speech that encourages violence, arouses sexual urges, damages the reputation of public persons, or offends the sensibilities of the audience. It will also consider how financial support of political speech can be limited or whether governments own speech should be restricted.

LW7323 Advanced Constitutional Law - United States Territories (3 credits)

This course will focus on the history and doctrine of the United States Constitution as it applies to United States territories. Topics may include the territorial clause; territorial incorporation; citizenship; cultural preservation; religion; double jeopardy; the commerce clause; and voting rights.

LW7245 Advanced Criminal Procedure (2 Credits)

Advanced Criminal Procedure (2 credit hours) This course addresses the defense of complex criminal law cases in federal courts. Topics covered include: grand jury practice, bail and preventive detention, discovery, suppression motions and trial techniques such as cross-examination and closing arguments. Prerequisites: first-year Criminal Law and Constitutional Criminal Procedure.

LW7251 Advanced Legal Research (2 Credits)

This course includes a basic bibliographic review of fundamental primary and secondary federal, state and local sources, with an emphasis on Texas state and local legal materials. Also included is an introduction to international law as integrated into US domestic law under well accepted constitutional principles. Students are also expected to complete a pathfinder, a detailed research strategy for general and specialized sources in a subject area of law.

LW8691 Advanced Torts (2 Credits)

This course focuses on five advanced tort causes of action which often redress purely economic losses (rather than personal injury and property damages). Those actions deal with: misrepresentation (fraud and negligent misrepresentation); defamation (libel and slander); invasion of privacy (appropriation of name or likeness, public disclosure of private facts, intrusion upon seclusion, and false light); tortious interference with contract or prospective advantage; and injurious falsehood (trade libel and slander of title). These five areas of tort liability are of particular interest to business entities (such as media defendants) and frequently raise First Amendment issues.

LW6707 American Legal History (3 Credits)

This course traces the changes in American law from the colonial era to the 1970's, and includes an examination of the historical development of the Supreme Court, the law of slavery, and the rise of the administrative state. Also explored are the history and evolution of contract, tort, and property doctrine; the history of the legal profession and legal education in America; and the transformation of American legal thought, including explanation and critique of formalism, realism, reasoned elaboration, law and economics, critical legal studies, and feminist legal thought.

LW7629 Animal Law (2 Credits)

This course is designed to familiarize you with the abundance of topics and legal issues within the field of animal law. In addition to relevant statutes and case law, we will examine the extent to which jurisprudence, legal systems, litigation, legislation, and societal values impact how practitioners, lawmakers, the judiciary, law students, legal scholars, and lay people perceive animals. In doing so, this course will not only facilitate learning substantive law in the field, but also help you understand the framework of claims and assumptions (both explicit and implicit) against which animal law legislation, litigation, and decisions are made.

LW8289 Antitrust (2 Credits)

This course will provide students a practical understanding of the antitrust laws as relevant in today's world to businesses large and small, online and off. It will enable the new lawyer to identify when a client is proposing conduct potentially challengeable under the antitrust laws, or when that same client is being harmed by predatory conduct of others. The course also will examine scenarios and actions most likely to draw an antitrust lawsuit or investigation as well as ways of mitigating those risks. And finally, the course will provide an understanding of, and insights into, the various federal and state enforcement agencies.

LW7340 Appellate Courts (3 Credits)

This course examines the role and operation of appellate courts, both state and federal, in the judicial system. Topics to be covered include: appeals as of right and by permission; the scope of appellate review; and the standards of appellate review.

LW8376 Arbitration (3 Credits)

This course examines the theory and application of arbitration in the resolution of public and private disputes, in both the international and domestic settings. Role plays will be utilized, and issues of ethics, policy and law will be explored.

LW7677 Asset Protection Planning (2 Credits)

Course to examine the techniques and legal strategies available to maximize wealth protection, including entity formation, insurance, property exemption planning, traditional domestic asset protection trusts, self-settled trusts, and offshore planning. Course to examine income, estate, and gift tax consequences of utilizing such strategies, and will place heavy emphasis on voidable transfer principles under the newly revised voidable transfer acts.

LW7602 Blockchain, Cryptocurrencies Technologies and the Law (2 Credits)

This course covers the legal and policy issues associated with cryptocurrencies and blockchain technologies. The course will open with an introduction to cryptocurrencies (like Bitcoin) to provide a basic technical and social understanding of these systems and the people participating in them. We will then explore the emerging legal landscape around cryptocurrencies, looking at Bitcoin's use in crime (e.g., Silk Road and money laundering); the application of money transmission laws; the SEC's treatment of Bitcoin, the Initial Coin Offering phenomenon, and proposed Bitcoin-based investment products; the CFTC's classification of Bitcoin as a commodity, enforcement over fraud, and oversight over Bitcoin-based derivatives like futures contracts; taxation of cryptocurrencies; governance and accountability challenges for decentralized systems like cryptocurrencies; and other emerging legal issues. The course will consider the regulatory challenges in dealing with cross-border, decentralized systems like cryptocurrencies, including the need for regulators to become educated about complex technological innovations, jurisdictional issues, regulatory competition and forum shopping, enforcement issues, balancing regulatory mandates with the desire to allow innovation, and the

development of new regulatory approaches such as regulatory sandboxes, among others. Finally, the course will explore blockchain technology, which has emerged as an outgrowth from cryptocurrencies, and has raised legal and policy issues of its own. After an overview of the technical and social phenomenon of blockchain technologies, we will explore the novel topics blockchain technologies raise for law and lawyers, including smart contracts, distributed autonomous organizations, automated dispute resolution, and other emerging questions. The goal of this course is to give students a general understanding of cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology and the legal and policy issues they raise. Students should leave the course with a basic level of fluency with the vocabulary and concepts in this nascent field.

LW7410 Business Associations (4 Credits)

This survey course studies issues relating to the selection of an appropriate business form (partnership, limited partnership, or corporation), as well as to the formation, financing, operation, and control of business associations. The course examines issues that can arise in associations of any size and character, and the topics considered include duties and potential liabilities of owners and managers, problems in the issuance of shares of stock and other securities, proxy regulation, insider trading, derivative litigation, and the role of corporations in society. Students may choose the standard four-credit hour Business Associations course, the five-credit hour Business Associations I and II courses, or the three-credit hour Business Associations I course. The five-credit hour Business Associations I and II courses will cover in depth material covered in the standard four-hour Business Associations course.

LW5508 Business Law and Ethics (1 Credit)

Business Law & Ethics establishes what ethics is, how people and entities establish an ethical structure, and how that affects corporate behavior. In particular, numerous common legal and regulatory issues are addressed (including, but not limited to, whistleblowing, privacy, the FCPA, and product liability) both in terms of the statutory and regulatory environment and in terms of an established and thoughtful ethical code.

LW5305 Business Structures and Statutory Compliance (3 Credits)

This survey course studies issues relating to the selection of an appropriate business form (partnership, limited partnership, or corporation), as well as to the formation, financing, operation, and control of business associations. The course examines issues that can arise in associations of any size and character, and the topics considered include duties and potential liabilities of owners and managers, problems in the issuance of shares of stock and other securities, proxy regulation, insider trading, derivative litigation, and the role of corporations in society.

LW8243 Business Transactions in Europe (2 Credits)

Business Transactions in Europe (2 credits) The course deals with some of the main private law aspects for business transactions within the European Union. It

concentrates on the commercial transfer of goods and services as well as on common rules in all Member States. At the beginning it provides for a basic knowledge of the core principles and structures constituting the EU economic policy, which are determining the operations of business actors in Europe. The second part focuses on European laws and regulations relevant to concluding and enforcing contractual arrangements in Europe, whereas operations by intermediaries like agents, franchisees or licensed dealers, and EU rules governing contractual content, particularly in the area of consumer protection, are emphasized. In addition, there will be some information on product liability. The final part is dedicated to the resolution of disputes, above all for cross-border cases: EU provisions on jurisdiction, the identification of the applicable law and the enforcement of foreign judgments, with a side glance on commercial arbitration.

LW7312 Business Torts (3 Credits)

Business Torts exposes students to the class of torts that are most commonly litigated between businesses. These can be classified into two general categories: the economic torts and unfair competition torts. In the area of economic torts, students will learn the basics of the economic loss rule, misrepresentation, civil RICO, fiduciary duties, insurance torts, and tortious interference with contract. In the portion covering unfair competition, students will learn the basics of deceptive marketing, business disparagement, misappropriation in general, and specifically misappropriation of trade secrets and trademarks, and finally will get an overview of antitrust law. While this class's coverage will inevitably have some overlap with an Advanced Torts course, the focus of the course is very different and most of the course coverage includes topics not normally found in an Advanced Torts course (such as civil RICO, insurance torts and the entire portion on unfair competition).

LW7305 Chinese Law (3 Credits)

Chinese Law (3 credit hours) This course introduces students to the history and institutions of the Chinese legal system, including the governmental structure, legislative process, and court system, sources of law and enforcement mechanisms. It also explores the important substantive areas of the law, such as the rules governing property ownership.

LW8715 Civil Restitution in Texas (3 Credits)

Restitution refers to one of the three major areas of judicially created causes of action. The other two are torts and contracts. In a narrow sense, restitution denotes the special remedies available in this area of law, and unjust enrichment is the label for the cause of action that makes one liable for restitution. The unjust retention of one party's property by another provides the factual base for a suit seeking restitution – that is, return of that property to its proper owner. In Texas, a plaintiff can assert a cause of action to prevent the defendant's unjust enrichment, and can plead that as an alternative to a tort or contract cause of action. A plaintiff can also assert an unjust-enrichment cause when the defendant did not wrongfully obtain the benefit. In other words, the plaintiff can recover even if the benefit was

transferred because of a mistake that would not support either a tort or contract claim.

LW5405 Commercial Law and Contracting (4 Credits)

This course will focus on Articles 1, 2, and 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, the provisions governing the sale of goods and security interests involving or related to goods. Topics considered include methods of creating and perfecting security interests; issues of priority; interrelationships between federal bankruptcy law and the UCC; and creditors' rights and obligations after debtors' default

LW7394 Commercial Paper (3 Credits)

One of the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) courses, Commercial Paper is the study of written instruments which represent money, such as promissory notes (representing promises to pay) and drafts (e.g., checks, representing orders to pay). Topics covered include requirements for negotiability and the manner of negotiation; holder in due course, the bona fide purchaser of commercial paper; liability that may arise with commercial paper, based on contract, warranty, and conversion; checking accounts; the bank collection process; and rights and liabilities of various parties when commercial paper contains forgeries or alterations.

LW8719 Community Property (3 Credits)

Community Property deals with the effect of marriage on property rights in states, such as Texas, with a "marital community" regime of marital property rights. Explored in the course are the nature of title to marital property; the effect of marriage on the management of marital property; the liability of spouses and their property for contractual undertakings and tortious acts; the disposition of marital property in the event of death, divorce, or annulment; and issues relating to "homesteads" under Texas law.

LW7380 Comparative Law (3 Credits)

This course dissects the dominant features of the civil and common law systems. It focuses on the history, legal structures, legal actors, procedure, sources of law, and legal reasoning of the West European and Latin American countries and contrasts them with the legal culture of the United Kingdom and the United States. In addition, the course provides an overview of the European Community and the European Human Rights System. It also addresses the legal changes in Central Europe and the newly independent states.

LW7317 Comparative Criminal Procedure (3 Credits)

Comparative Criminal Procedure explores the methods by which those accused of crime are investigated, prosecuted, and adjudicated in the world's major legal systems. Students will examine the characteristics of adversarial and non-adversarial approaches by considering several countries using each of these approaches, as well as examining the hybrid processes used by international tribunals, including the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Court.

LW5307 Compliance, Ethics and Risk Management (3 Credits)

The course will offer an overview of a number of substantive law compliance areas such as antitrust, anticorruption/anti-bribery (e.g. US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and the UK Bribery Act), privacy and employment law including social media compliance, data piracy such as what Target recently experienced, board of directors responsibilities, internet compliance, records management, conflicts of interest, compliance issues in M&A, international trade and business and U.S. export controls, wage and hour compliance, government contracting, anti-money laundering and fraud prevention, False Claims Act, SEC disclosures and compliance, and gifts and entertainment compliance.

LW8681 Computer Law and the Internet (2 Credits)

The course starts from the premise that it is not simply a set of legal rules governing online interaction, but a lens through which to re-examine general problems of policy, jurisprudence, and culture. Conceptual issues are emphasized that extend across the spectrum of cyberspace legal dilemmas. Traditional subject matter areas of Computer Law and the Internet are addressed and how traditional legal doctrines can be applied to cyberspace conduct and the special problems encountered in the course of that application and traditional legal doctrines. The who, how, and what of governance/regulation are addressed including fundamental questions that pertain to any legal system, in cyberspace or elsewhere. Studies on governance of the domain name system, efforts to control the exchange of counterfeit goods in the online marketplace, and the Google Books Settlement, as well as peer-to-peer file sharing, online behavioral advertising, regulation of sexually explicit speech, and ownership of user-generated content are also addressed.

LW7356 Conflict of Laws (3 Credits)

The Conflict of Laws course addresses the special problems that arise when disputes have a connection with more than one jurisdiction -- problems usually classified under the headings "choice of law," "jurisdiction," and "enforcement of judgments." These issues are encountered in almost every area of practice and have constitutional, as well as legislative and judicial, dimensions. The course thus raises provocative questions regarding the nature of "law" and its role in society.

LW7390 Contract Drafting (3 Credits)

The Contract Drafting course will teach students the principles of contemporary commercial drafting and introduce them to documents typically used in a variety of transactions. The skills students will gain will be applicable to any transactional practice and will even be useful to litigators. On finishing the course, students should know: the business purpose of each of the contract concepts; how to translate the business deal into contract concepts; how to draft each of a contract's parts; how to draft with clarity and without ambiguity; how to add value to a deal; how to work through the drafting process; and how to review and comment on a contract. Students will perform drafting and contract negotiation exercises

throughout the semester, and course grades will be based on several drafting exercises and class participation.

LW7250 Construction Law (2 Credits)

Covers the basics of Texas Construction Law. Emphasis is on: typical contracting relationships; unique aspects of construction contracts; and unique statutes and common law found in the construction industry. The course will cover indemnity and insurance issues, mechanics' liens and bond claims. Construction defect, enforcing payment for the work, property damage and personal injury/ death claims will be explored. Handling construction evidence and effective use of Texas Rules of Civil Procedure will also be discussed. Practical discussions of trial and mediation techniques will be incorporated into the class work. It is recommended that the student have completed Contracts, and either have completed or be taking Texas Civil Procedure and Texas Evidence.

LW5710 Constitutional Criminal Procedure (3 Credits)

Criminal Procedure is a constitutional law course, with an emphasis on the 4th, 5th, 6th and 14th amendments of the United States Constitution. Topics include arrest; search and seizure; investigative detentions; warrant requirements; confessions and other incriminating statements; and the right to counsel.

LW8649 Copyright Law (2 Credits)

This course provides a detailed study of federal copyright law and the legal protection it affords for literary, musical, and artistic works.

LW8708 Corporate Planning (3 Credits)

This course introduces students to the legal and business considerations involved in forming and operating an emerging growth business. The course combines theory and practice to prepare students for the types of projects and challenges they will confront in the first year of a transactional practice, and is designed to prepare students to represent start-up businesses of all sizes. Therefore, the course will benefit those students who represent small family businesses on Main Street as well as those who plan to represent much larger enterprises on Wall Street. The course uses a hypothetical start-up business as well as supplemental readings, sample agreements and class discussions to help students identify and deal effectively with the numerous issues presented to legal counsel in the startup and operation of a growth-oriented business, including selecting and forming a business entity, structuring the economic benefits and management control among various owners, protecting intellectual property assets and raising capital. Business Associations is a prerequisite for enrollment

LW5306 Creditors Rights and Bankruptcy (2 Credits)

This course is designed not only for those interested in general bankruptcy practice, but also for those who anticipate that their practice will involve structuring commercial transactions or litigating business disputes. This is a basic course in debtor/creditor law, but with an emphasis on business bankruptcy. The course

includes an overview of the general principles and forms of relief offered by the federal Bankruptcy Code, focusing especially on the legal and financial aspects of business bankruptcy and the process of reorganizations. The areas of emphasis will include the automatic stay; debtor-in-possession financing; operating and administering debtors' estates; treatment of executory contracts and leases; the avoiding powers of the trustee in bankruptcy; and the formulation and confirmation of plans of reorganization.

LW6751 Criminal Procedure (3 Credits)

Criminal Procedure is a constitutional law course, with an emphasis on the 4th, 5th, 6th and 14th amendments of the United States Constitution. Topics include arrest; search and seizure; investigative detentions; warrant requirements; confessions and other incriminating statements; and the right to counsel.

LW8250 Criminal Justice Administration (2 Credits)

This course examines the post-conviction aspects of the criminal justice system in both the federal and Texas systems. Topics include sentencing (including the impact of plea bargaining on dispositions in criminal cases, probation, parole, and the federal sentencing guideline system. Another major component of the course is an examination of the unique law of capital punishment.

LW5313 Cyber Law (2 credits)

The primary goal of this course will be to provide an overview of current cyberlaw issues, risks, and trends. The course will begin with legal topics related to online benefits like growing a business online, creating online assets, and building relationships online. Next, the course will review some of the online risks that could jeopardize those online benefits such as privacy risks, hacking, and cybercrime. In the final section of the course, we will discuss legal issues related to newer technologies like blockchain, big data, and artificial intelligence.

LW7229 Death Penalty (2 Credits)

Death Penalty in America (2 credit hours) This course will review the historic development of the death penalty in America since 1970, as well as the practical, philosophical, and Biblical arguments for and against the death penalty, and carefully examine what the Supreme Court of the United States has done to insure that the innocent are protected in capital murder cases. This course will focus not only on the law, but also the most troublesome policy issues that are at the center of the death penalty debate in America today

LW8396 Debtors/Creditors Rights and Business Bankruptcy (3 Credits)

Debtor/Creditor and Business Bankruptcy (3 credits) This course is designed not only for those interested in general bankruptcy practice, but also for those who anticipate that their practice will involve structuring commercial transactions or litigating business disputes. This is a basic course in debtor/creditor law, but with an emphasis on business bankruptcy. The course includes an overview of the general principles and forms of relief offered by the federal Bankruptcy Code,

focusing especially on the legal and financial aspects of business bankruptcy and the process of reorganizations. The areas of emphasis will include the automatic stay; debtor-in-possession financing; operating and administering debtors' estates; treatment of executory contracts and leases; the avoiding powers of the trustee in bankruptcy; and the formulation and confirmation of plans of reorganization.

LW8610 Deceptive Trade Practices (2 Credits)

This course provides an overview of federal and state legislation and case law designed to protect consumers and others from deceptive practices in trade and commerce. The Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act is emphasized.

LW7213 Deposition Skills (2 Credits)

Deposition Skills (2 credits) This course will teach law students how to take and defend a deposition in a civil litigation case. Deposition Skills is an intensive and interactive skills course. Students will assume roles as plaintiff or defense counsel in a simulated case, either from the files of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, or a fact pattern from the Civil Justice Clinic. Both parties will prepare witnesses, prepare deposition outlines, and take and defend depositions (including information gathering, obtaining admissions, and using exhibits.) Two classes of 6 persons each will be talk simultaneously, with some concurrent sessions.

LW7740 Doing Business with Mexico (3 Credits)

The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with the legal framework business transactions in Mexico and Latin America. The course will include an analysis of historical, cultural, political, social and economic aspects of Mexico, as they relate to the legal system. The course is taught in Spanish.

LW5309 Education Law (3 Credits)

This course focuses on the leading legal precedents directly related to the responsibilities and rights of schools, students and teachers. The course considers the realities of providing high quality schools in an educational environment with very limited budgets and public support. For each separate issue, the course introduces the history of the law, educational theory, and recent and projected developments. Among other topics the course considers school finance, alternative methods of providing education, civil rights issues and the multiple levels of control and input into the education environment.

LW8256 Education Law (2 Credits)

This is a survey course concerning the law directly affecting public and private education, with an emphasis on public education. Included are analysis of church-state relationships, state entities, local school boards, financial problems, use of school property and resources, tort liability, contractual liability, terms and conditions of teachers' employment, rights and duties of students, and school board policies and procedures.

LW8615 Elder Law (2 Credits)

One of the fastest growing areas of law, this course assesses the myriad of legal concerns of the elderly, including health care decision-making; living wills and surrogate decision-making for the incapacitated person; issues regarding Medicare and Medicaid; long-term care insurance; social security benefits and supplemental security income eligibility; veterans' benefits; tax issues; pension plans; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA); and elder abuse and neglect.

LW8791 Employment Discrimination: Title VII (3 Credits)

Employment discrimination law is an important body of civil rights law and is also the fastest growing area of labor law. This course will address methods of proving a case of discrimination under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which forbids employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Issues covered may include sexual harassment, affirmative action, pay equity, and retaliation against employees who file charges of discrimination. The course will also cover procedural issues concerning enforcement, as well as the types of relief available. Other statutes, such as the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Family and Medical Leave Act, and the employment discrimination provision of the Americans with Disabilities Act, may be covered.

LW5308 Employment Law (3 Credits)

This course will address methods of proving a case of discrimination under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which forbids employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Issues covered may include sexual harassment, affirmative action, pay equity, and retaliation against employees who file charges of discrimination. The course will also cover procedural issues concerning enforcement, as well as the types of relief available. Other statutes, such as the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Family and Medical Leave Act, and the employment discrimination provision of the Americans with Disabilities Act, may be covered.

LW5725 Employment & Human Resource Core (3 Credits)

This course develops students' skills in assessing and managing the contemporary business environment at individual, group, and organizational levels. Topics include issues such as motivation, communication, leadership, human resource policy, external business analysis, and strategy formulation and implementation. The course also explores the dynamic interaction of these levels by focusing on topics such as organizational culture, human resources management, teams, job design, organizational development, and change.

LW5625 Employment & Human Resource Law Capstone (2 Credits)

This course covers the laws that govern the rights and duties between employers and employees. It goes beyond knowledge of the law and focuses instead on the application of the legal knowledge to scenarios that HR professionals will encounter in both the private and public sectors. Students will look back over what they have

learned in the program and home in on a topic that concerns a problem in HR or an unsettled legal issue. Throughout the semester students will research, develop their thesis and complete their capstone paper under faculty supervision.

LW8659 Entertainment Law (2 Credits)

This is a survey course which focuses on the legal issues and practices common to all areas of the entertainment industry. Practice issues are emphasized, as well as new developments in relevant intellectual property law, and significant business law issues.

LW8728 Environmental Law (3 Credits)

This course will address environmental problems and legal efforts to respond to those problems, including legislation and environmental litigation. In addition to surveys of state and federal controls concerning air, water, solid and toxic waste, other selected problems areas will be explored in detail.

LW8391 Estate Planning (3 Credits)

Estate Planning focuses on the process by which individuals make comprehensive arrangements for their property and personal needs which remain in effect during disability and after death. Topics covered in this course include disability planning for property and health care needs; planning for the physical aspects of death; the use of non-probate techniques; the preparation and execution of wills, trusts, and other documents; and the fundamentals of federal gift and estate taxation.

Prerequisite: Wills & Estates. Trusts is also highly recommended.

LW8340 European Union Law (3 Credits)

This course examines the law of the European Union (EU), now the world's largest trading block. The focus is on (1) the EU as customs union with a common commercial and trade policy towards outsiders; (2) the free movement within the EU of goods, or workers, services and capital; (3) the legal structure of the EU; (4) the competition (antitrust) laws of the EU affecting US companies doing business in Europe or with Europe; and (5) intellectual property rulings of the European Commission and the European Court of Justice.

LW6434 Evidence (4 Credits)

The Evidence course explores the process of preparing and presenting evidence in trials. Topics covered may include examination of witnesses; competency of witnesses; privileges; relevancy; demonstrative evidence; the burden of producing evidence; presumptions and the burden of persuasion; judicial notice; the hearsay rule; and proof of documents, recordings, and writings. Evidence I and II cover the same topics as the four-hour Evidence course, but permit students to enroll in two 2-hour segments each semester. The Evidence requirement is satisfied through successful completion of the four-hour Evidence course, or of both Evidence I and Evidence II.

LW7632 Evidence in Practice (2 Credits)

Evidence in Practice (2 credits) Evidence is a prerequisite for this course This two-hour course will provide students with experiential learning opportunities in evidence. It will cover advanced doctrinal review, written work, and oral presentations on evidence and related litigation topics, such as character evidence, witness's competency, credibility evidence, privileges, relevancy, hearsay, experts, and authentication of evidence. Students will prepare documents such as motions, jury instructions, and bench memos on selected evidence topics throughout the course and will present oral arguments on those documents. The goal of the course is to prepare students for the practice of law in commonly encountered evidence issues in a trial court by honing their legal writing and oral advocacy skills. The students' grades will be based on their performance on the written and oral assignments. The course will provide credit for the experiential learning requirement.

LW7331 Family Law (3 Credits)

This course is a survey of a wide variety of legal issues concerning the family unit, with an emphasis on the policies and changing nature of family law. Topics explored may include marriage requirements and consequences, divorce grounds, property division at divorce, child support, custody, non-marital children, domestic violence, parental rights, adoption, and non-traditional families.

LW7295 Family Law Mediation (2 Credits)

Family Law Mediation is an expansion of the Mediation Course. Students will enhance their Mediation Skills by continuing development using the three different types of mediation: Transformative Mediation, Evaluative Mediation, and Cooperative Mediation. The class will address issues of particular concern in Family Law Mediation cases, including the maintenance of continued relationships, property division settlements, an introduction to family dynamics, basic child development, and finally advanced topics, such as domestic abuse and protective orders. Students will be asked to focus on these issues while further developing their mediation abilities, such as questioning techniques, venting and listening skills, and option generating. Students will also learn to recognize tactics used by parties and attorneys to forestall the mediation process, and work on developing ways to approach these "stonewalling" tactics. Mediation is a prerequisite for Family Law Mediation. This course is intended to provide the additional training for appointment as a family law mediator under §154.052(b) Texas CPRC.

LW7650 Federal Criminal Procedure (2 Credits)

This is a survey course of the procedure used in the federal criminal justice system from arrest and indictment (or information) through trial and sentencing. Topics covered include: grand jury practice, bail and pretrial release, pretrial motions, discovery, joinder and severance, guilty plea procedures, and trial.

LW7386 Federal Courts (3 Credits)

This course builds on the first-year Procedure course and provides a more detailed exposure to the limited judicial power of the federal courts. Topics may include the distribution of judicial power among federal and state courts, the original jurisdiction of the federal district courts (including cases arising under the United States Constitution and statutes, and jurisdiction based on "diversity of citizenship"), federal litigation, and emerging legislative proposals concerning jurisdiction of the federal courts.

LW7376 Federal Income Taxation (3 Credits)

The Federal Income Taxation course, a prerequisite for all other tax courses, provides an introduction to the basic policies and principles of federal income taxation, which are encountered in many areas of practice, including real estate, bankruptcy, family law, and personal injury. It provides a vehicle for learning to work with statutes and regulations and does not require a business or accounting background.

LW5410 Fundamentals of Information Systems and Cyber Security (4 credits)

This course provides an in-depth study of the internationally recognized common body of knowledge (CBK) of computer information systems and security, which are developed and maintained by the International Information Systems Security Certification Consortium (ISC). The CBK is comprised of the following eight domains of computer information systems and security knowledge: Security and Risk Management; Asset Security; Security Engineering; Communication and Network Security; Identity and Access Management; Security Assessment and Testing; Security Operations; and Software Development Security.

LW8217 Global Corporate Compliance Law, Practice, and Governance

Global Corporate Compliance Law, Practice and Governance 2 or 3 credits This course is designed to provide an overview of a number of substantive law areas in compliance practice with an emphasis on the elements of an effective compliance and ethics program. An additional goal of the class will be to explore risk-based approaches to solving compliance problems. In addition to the substantive law overview, the skills to be taught will include: 1) How to conduct an investigation in US and international jurisdictions; 2) How to write policies and procedures; 3) How to engage, train and report to the board of directors; 4) How to conduct a risk assessment and measure effectiveness of the compliance program; 5) Best practices for compliance training; 6) How to network with other compliance lawyers/professionals to keep abreast of compliance best practices; and 7) the best practices in code of conduct drafting and development.

LW8798 Global National Security Law (3 Credits)

This survey course addresses the definition of domestic and international conflict; its modalities (e.g., armed conflict, terrorism, economic coercion, and environmental degradation); types of threats (e.g., nuclear, biological, and chemical); the public law of conflict management; and the U.S. response to external

conflict within the confines of domestic and international legal principles recognized by the United States (including constitutional issues). The course has an interdisciplinary character but is ultimately guided by the international and domestic rule of law.

LW7225 Health Law (3 Credits)

This survey course covers the major legal issues involved in health care in the United States. The course gives students an introduction to the various state and national administrative rules and regulations regarding quality controls, licensing of health care professionals, and ethical /legal concerns involving physician/patient relationships. With the advent of new HIPAA privacy regulations and tort reform impacting medical liability issues, students will have the opportunity to obtain a working knowledge of the law. The course will survey contemporary policy issues in health law.

LW7265 Human Trafficking (2 Credits)

Human Trafficking 2 or 3 credits This course will cover the domestic and international attempts to restrict the horrors of human trafficking. The first topic will include an introduction to the phenomenon of human trafficking, including an explanation of both labor trafficking and sex trafficking. Next the course will examine the domestic efforts seeking to eradicate trafficking. Third, the course will address questions surrounding how the United States Department of State addresses human trafficking on an international level. Fourth, the course will consider what is being done to address immigration concerns related to human trafficking. Fifth, the course examines whether prostitution should be decriminalized, detailing the experiments and the shortcomings of this approach. The chapter concerns the relatively new, so-called "Nordic approach," which criminalizes the purchase of sex but avoids criminalizing the behavior of the person who is being prostituted. Finally, the course concludes with an examination of what else can be done to limit the spread of trafficking, providing information on resources available to those who would seek to minimize the damage to human trafficking victims.

LW8370 Immigration Law (3 Credits)

This survey course covers the source of immigration power and constitutional protections for aliens. It addresses the admission of aliens as immigrants and non-immigrants; grounds of removal and waivers as well as removal procedure; refugees; and asylum. To complete the overview, it also addresses issues pertaining to citizenship, its loss and its acquisition. The course must be taken either prior to or concurrent with the Immigration Clinic.

LW7397 Insurance Law (3 Credits)

The Insurance Law course focuses on the special nature of insurance contracts and the insurance industry. Included is coverage of governmental supervision and control of the industry; organization and agents; making of the contract, including insurable interest and binders; construction of insurance contracts, including

coverage provisions, exclusions, and other conditions; parties with interests in the contract; the company's rights and duties upon the happening of the insured event; and rights at variance with the contract.

LW7207 Intellectual Property Law (2 Credits)

A survey courses that covers the American intellectual property tradition, including trade secret, copyright, patent, and trademark law. The course covers the nature of these property rights and the contours of the protections (and exceptions to protections) afford by the law.

LW7371 International ADR (3 Credits)

International Alternative Dispute Resolutions (ADR) 3 credit hours International Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is a course that combines the (1) study of the nature, specific features, and operational functions of the different methods that encompass ADR in public and private international law, namely, negotiation, mediation, fact-finding, conciliation and arbitration, and (2) application of those methods in practice. The course addresses both the doctrinal and the practical dimensions of international ADR. Students will be provided with the basic but comprehensive foundational information related to the way in which ADR processes are defined and work in practice. Also, students will be engaged in mock setting disputes to strength their legal skills in using international ADR methods.

LW8604 International Business Transactions: Investment and Finance (2 Credits)

This course focuses on international investment and financing issues. The topics covered include (1) the use of letters of credit in international business transactions; (2) the use of foreign distributors and agents; (3) investment vehicles and investment in Europe; (4) foreign investment in NAFTA; (5) United States regulation of foreign investment; (6) economic boycotts; (7) issues confronting established investments; (8) taking an investment; (9) project financing; and (10) Third World debt, the IMF and the international monetary system. It is recommended, but not necessary that International Business Transactions, Sales and Trade and International Business Transactions, Investment and Finance (the companion course) be taken sequentially. Each course is designed to stand on its own.

LW 7615 International Intellectual Property (2 Credits)

An introduction to foreign licensing and protection of intellectual property set against the larger backdrop of international trade and commerce.

LW7625 International Economics Law (2 Credits)

This course focuses on the principles, rules, agreements, linkages, and policies within The World Trade Organization (WTO); international investment law and bilateral investment treaties; international monetary law; and international development assistance lead by the World Bank. This course also addresses the topics of international economic sanctions, the mechanisms of dispute settlement available in the field of international economic law as well as the mixed private and

public international law solutions that occasionally appear in international economic disputes.

LW7270 International Organization (2 Credits)

International Organizations is open to qualified J.D. and LL.M. students. The course is a practical application of fundamental knowledge and expertise expected of an entry level legal advisor representing a public intergovernmental organization (IGO), its organs or subsidiary bodies, including true judicial organs proper. Some limited discussion concerns the non-governmental international organization (NGO). The comparative method is used to identify general principles of international law, customary international law, international organization practice, organization internal law, and conventional law, all of which govern IGOs. The development of critical thinking skills is integrated with doctrinal material. Required reading includes comparative analysis of constituent instruments and decisional instruments, including, but not limited to adopted resolution analysis. Application of knowledge will be evaluated through class participation, student preparation of a legal memorandum advising an IGO or a principal organ on a legal issue concerning interpretation of disputed constitutional text using Articles 31 and 32 of the Vienna Convention of the Law of Treaties (1969), student presentations which compare and contrast universal and regional IGOs, and by final examination.

LW8233 International Law of Stolen Art (2 Credits)

International Law in Stolen Art and Artifacts (2 credits) The course will discuss the common and civil law of lost, found, and abandoned property. Students will study the problems of national sovereignty in cultural property and the law and the various fora for seeking the return of such property, including international conventions. Additionally, the course will cover the manner in which different nations and supra-national conventions define and interpret the rights of artists in their creations, including investigation of the myriad legal issues concerning the defenses of limitations, laches and bona fide purchasers.

LW6705 Jurisprudence (3 Credits)

The term "jurisprudence" is defined in a broad and all-inclusive manner as "the science or philosophy of law." Jurisprudence has sometimes been used as a label for several course offerings that vary somewhat from one semester to another, depending on the instructor. In general, the Jurisprudence course introduces students to important schools of thought about the origins, purposes, and workings of law through the reading and discussion of edited works of legal philosophers. It focuses on the development of ideas about the nature of law and the judicial process, and the relationship between those ideas and the working of law; in other words, students will see how philosophies of law inform the practice of law. Sections of the Jurisprudence course may focus on particular aspects of jurisprudence. Examples include Jurisprudence: Critical Lawyering Theory and Jurisprudence: Gender and the Law.

LW8244 Juvenile Law (2 Credits)

In Juvenile Law, students study the encounters of children with our legal system, including delinquency adjudication; proceedings to determine whether children are in need of supervision; rights of juveniles; and the role of attorneys in representing juveniles.

LW7774 Labor Law (3 Credits)

Labor Law is the basic course focusing on the relationship between employers and an organized labor force and on the federal law governing that relationship. Topics explored include union organization and recognition; collective bargaining; arbitration of grievances; unfair labor practices; the National Labor Relations Board; strikes, pickets, and boycotts; and lockouts, black listing, and yellowdog contracts.

LW8720 Land Use (3 Credits)

A study of private and public means of controlling uses of private property. Emphasis is placed on municipal planning and zoning, fifth amendment regulatory takings and eminent domain. Further discussion topics include subdivision controls, first amendment land use limitations, sprawl and urban revitalization, and low income housing. Prerequisites: Property I and II.

LW6310 Law and Economics (3 Credits)

This course offers a study and critique of the use of economics analysis for clarifying legal policy and for the appraisal of court decisions. The course will focus on the extent to which virtually all areas of the law can be understood as the institutional embodiment of the principle of economic efficiency. Prior knowledge of economics is not essential, and the course will include a brief overview of basic economic theory

LW6309 Law and Economics (3 Credits)

LAW AND PHILOSOPHY (3 CREDIT HOURS) This three-hour course involves the survey and study of basic philosophic principles that have formed the law as it studied, used and practiced today, beginning with Aristotle and concluding with "Law in Other Voices" (Critical Legal Studies, Feminism, Critical Race Theory and Law and Economics). This is a seminar in which students may satisfy their writing requirement or take an exam. Each student will make three presentations to the class, and there will be general discussion of "what is law", what is the sources of law, is law a form of political action, and how should courts decide cases.

LW7795 Legal Spanish and the Mexican Legal System (3 Credits)

This course provides a foundation in legal terminology and proper usage in the different areas of Mexican law. Students are exposed to the nuances associated with the Mexican legal system, fundamental legal concepts, key Latin phrases, and to the teaching techniques that characterize legal instruction at Mexican law schools. Taught in Spanish.

LW7682 Legislation and Statutory Interpretation (2 Credits)

Today, most of our law is derived not from judicial opinions, but from statutes. This is true at both the state and federal levels. Thus, mastering statutory interpretation is important for every lawyer, no matter their practice area. This course will focus on interpreting statutes, primarily through the lens of the federal system, but will also explore issues of statutory interpretation at the state level in Texas, particularly when it deviates from the approach in the federal system. The primary book is: Hillel Y. Levin, *Statutory Interpretation: A Practical Lawyering Course*, West 2014. In addition to the readings from this book, some law review articles and Texas judicial opinions would be assigned as reading, as indicated on the syllabus. The course is graded based on two criteria: an exam and in-class participation. The exam is a traditional law school exam based on a fact pattern, as well as short essay questions. The in-class participation will stem from students' engagement with the readings and, in particular, their participation in in class exercises. By the end of this course, students will be able to do the following: read statutes proficiently and understand the difficulties in doing so; understand the theoretical approaches to interpreting statutes; understand the practical tools of statutory interpretation; and apply all of these skills in practice.

LW8755 Mediation (3 Credits)

Mediation explores those situations in which an impartial person, the mediator, facilitates communication among parties to promote reconciliation, settlement, or understanding among them. The course will explore all forms of mediation, whether conducted by consent or court order (court annexed mediation), and will include extensive training in mediation and negotiation. Issues concerning qualifications, confidentiality, liability, and ethics will be covered.

LW8600 Medical Malpractice Litigation (2 Credits)

Medical Malpractice Litigation, a study of the law and procedure governing medical malpractice actions in Texas, will prepare students to evaluate properly and manage effectively a medical malpractice lawsuit. Practical applications of the course include deposing medical witnesses, motions for summary judgment, and effective use of medical resources.

LW5610 Mental Health and the Law (2 credits)

This class will explore timely issues surrounding mental health law. Representative topics include civil commitment proceedings; forced outpatient treatment and hospitalization; mental health in the criminal justice system; guardianship/conservatorship and its alternatives; mental health courts; the Americans with Disabilities Act; and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

LW7315 Mergers and Acquisitions (3 Credits)

Mergers & Acquisitions (3 credits) This course takes an in-depth look at common business and legal topics and issues that arise in the acquisition or sale of privately held companies, focusing on small and medium size entrepreneurial or family-owned enterprises. Areas covered will include the steps in the acquisition process, structuring the acquisition, elements of the acquisition agreement and negotiation issues and strategies. Students will be expected to participate actively in class discussions of weekly reading materials.

LW8230 Military Law (2 Credits)

The course will concentrate on the present system of military justice in the United States. It will look at the sources of military law, including the Constitution, the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), and the Manual for Courts-Martial (MCM). In addition to evaluating the UCMJ since its enactment by Congress in 1951, the course will also address the history of military justice, the scope of military jurisdiction, different types of crimes established in the UCMJ, military practice and procedure before, during and after trial, including a comparison between the evidentiary and procedural rules under the UCMJ/MCM and the federal courts, appellate court jurisdiction and role under the UCMJ, the role of the military lawyer as both advocate and counselor, and the ethics of the military lawyer, the role of the military commander under the UCMJ, significant military law cases decided by Supreme Court and other courts, a comparative analysis of military justice systems of other nations, and the trial of enemy combatants.

LW8318 Mortgages and Real Estate Finance (3 Credits)

This "real property" course covers the rights and interests of the parties to mortgages and other security devices, as well as those of transferees and of innocent third parties. Topics covered include the deed of trust; the vendor's lien and superior title; mechanic's and material man's liens, both constitutional and statutory; and remedies such as foreclosure, redemption, and marshaling of assets.

LW5310 Negotiations (3 Credits)

Negotiation is a course in conflict prevention and resolution, designed to acquaint the student with the processes, and theories, surrounding conflicting human interactions, particularly in the legal world. The theories of integrative and distributive bargaining are explored, as are the interpersonal skills, including communication skills that will aid the student in better satisfying their interests in any negotiation setting, whether interpersonal, legal or otherwise. Gender and cultural differences are reviewed, as are the dynamics of large group conflict resolution and the use of agents and intermediaries in negotiations. The ethics of negotiation are emphasized, along with the need for a mature approach to conflict resolution.

LW8716 Negotiations (3 Credits)

Negotiation is a course in conflict prevention and resolution, designed to acquaint the student with the processes, and theories, surrounding conflicting human

interactions, particularly in the legal world. The theories of integrative and distributive bargaining are explored, as are the interpersonal skills, including communication skills, that will aid the student in better satisfying their interests in any negotiation setting, whether interpersonal, legal or otherwise. Gender and cultural differences are reviewed, as are the dynamics of large group conflict resolution and the use of agents and intermediaries in negotiations. The ethics of negotiation are emphasized, along with the need for a mature approach to conflict resolution.

LW5604 Oil and Gas (2 Credits)

This course is the study of the law governing interests in oil and gas, with an emphasis on Texas law. Topics explored include the nature of interests in oil and gas; oil and gas leases; lease covenants, express and implied; title and conveyancing problems; transfers; and pooling and unitization.

LW8328 Oil and Gas (3 Credits)

This course is the study of the law governing interests in oil and gas, with an emphasis on Texas law. Topics explored include the nature of interests in oil and gas; oil and gas leases; lease covenants, express and implied; title and conveyancing problems; transfers; and pooling and unitization.

LW8644 Patent Law (2 Credits)

This course examines the nature of patent protection. Circumstances under which this method of protecting inventions and other original works is appropriate, and the steps necessary to secure, maintain, and enforce the protection, are emphasized.

LW9211 Products Liability (2 Credits)

This course focuses on the need for, philosophy of, and historical development of modern products liability law. Emphasis is placed on the causes of action available to a person injured by a defective product, defenses available to responsible parties, damages sustained as a result of the defect, and the various situations in which litigation of this type arises.

LW6333 Professional Responsibility (3 Credits)

Professional Responsibility explores the legal, ethical and moral responsibilities of lawyers to clients, courts, the community and the legal profession. The current professional rules of professional conduct, and the policies underlying them, are examined. However, consistent with ABA standards, students should be aware that the course in Professional Responsibility does not prepare students for the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE). As with all other bar examinations, students intending to take the MPRE should plan to take a commercial bar preparation course prior to taking the MPRE. Information on such courses will be provided to all students enrolled in the Professional Responsibility course.

LW8218 Race, and Racism in American Law (3 Credits)

Race, Racism in American Law (2 credits) This course addresses the many and various ways in which race and the American legal system interact. As a survey course, the class will analyze the impact of racial bias on policy decisions in the United States. Various topics will include slavery in the United States, segregation, the Civil Rights movement, voting rights, racial discrimination in housing and employment and criminal justice. Reading materials will include both traditional (textbook, law review articles, cases, investigation reports, and statutes) and non-traditional (Essays, opinion articles and various videos). The format anticipates and necessitates full participation by each class member with discussion and analysis of historical and contemporary issues of race and law. This course will meet the writing requirement.

LW8238 Real Estate Transactions (2 Credits)

This is an introductory survey course that will offer hands on, practical skills approach to wide range of legal applications in real estate transactions (emphasis on commercial) including the following: 1) the team players- who is involved in a successful real estate transaction and the logistics to close a transaction 2) purchase and sale of real estate, review of the purchase and sales agreement; development issues 3) title insurance and survey- the importance of the title commitment 4) title objections and title cures 5) conveyance documentation and issues 6) real estate finance 7) leases- ground, office, and retail leases 8) the role of brokers and listing agreements and letters of intent 9) who is the purchaser and why entities matter 10) residential real estate and TREC forms- why lawyers do not play a big role in residential real estate and 11) real estate litigation and mediation. As part of the class, guest lecturers will be invited who use the real estate lawyer in their business setting: 1) commercial developer with an emphasis on green development 2) title company escrow agent and legal underwriter for a title company 3) commercial real estate lender and 4) a commercial real estate litigator/trial lawyer.

LW7764 Remedies (3 Credits)

In Remedies students explore the various types of judicial relief, equitable and "at law," available to people who have suffered or might suffer a substantive wrong, such as a tort or breach of contract. Students examine the maxims of equity and equitable remedies, including an in-depth study of injunctions; substitutionary money damages, including compensatory and punitive damages in contract and tort cases; and restitution-based causes of action such as "quasi-contract," subrogation, and constructive and resulting trusts. The course presumes the violation of a substantive right and attempts to answer the question, "What relief should the injured party seek from the court?"

LW7701 Sales (3 Credits)

Sales: UCC Article 2 (2 or 3 credits) Sales is a Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) course. Article 2 of the UCC is explored, including the creation of sales contracts, the relationships between buyers and sellers, the rights and obligations of the parties, and the remedies available for breach of the contract. Other areas explored

include risk of loss on shipment or storage, commercial impracticality, letters of credit, and documents of title. A student who takes this course may not also take the combined course on Sales and Secured Transactions.

LW7494 Sales and Secured Transactions (4 Credits)

This course will focus on Articles 1, 2, and 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, the provisions governing the sale of goods and security interests involving or related to goods. Because the course combines topics covered in the Sales and the Secured Transaction courses, students who have completed either Sales or Secured Transactions are not permitted to enroll in this course.

LW8288 Securities Regulations (2 Credits)

This course focuses on the federal and state regulation of securities and the securities industry. Topics covered include registration, exemptions from registration, and liability under the Securities Act; reporting, proxies, tender offers, fraud, short-swing profits, market manipulation, and broker. Prerequisite: Business Associations.

LW7395 Secured Transactions (3 Credits)

One of the UCC (Uniform Commercial Code) courses, Secured Transactions is the study of using personal property as collateral for a loan or grant of credit. Topics considered include methods of creating and perfecting security interests; issues of priority; interrelationships between federal bankruptcy law and the UCC; and creditors' rights and obligations after debtors' default. A student who takes this course may not also take the combined course on Sales and Secured Transactions.

LW5608 Special Education Law (2 credits)

In this course, you will gain a deep understanding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the primary federal legislation governing the provision of special education services, as well as state law and regulations pertaining to the provision of special education services to students with disabilities in Texas. You will become familiar with the legal issues concerning identification, assessment, and evaluation procedures, free appropriate public education (FAPE), least restrictive alternative (LRE), individual education programs (IEPs), due process and mediation, and discipline.

LW7765 Sports Law (3 Credits)

Sports Law (3 credit hours) This course covers various amateur sports law issues and focuses on legal regulation of interscholastic, intercollegiate, and Olympic sports. This course also covers the legal framework governing the relationship between an agent and a professional athlete and analyzes ethical issues relating thereto. Topics covered may include constitutional law, tort law, contract law, Title IX gender discrimination, federal disability discrimination laws, the legal relationship between a university and its student athletes, regulatory authority of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, United States Olympic Committee, and high school athletic associations, antitrust law, resolution of disputes affecting

Olympic sports (including the jurisdiction and operation of the Court of Arbitration for Sport), and regulation of private educational institutions and sports associations.

LW7316 State and Territorial Legal Institutions (3 Credits)

This course will examine the court systems and other legal institutions in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the five inhabited territories, as well as their relationships with the federal courts. Topics may include state and territorial constitutions; the structure of state and territorial court systems; Article IV courts; federal court jurisdiction over issues of state and territorial law; deference to state and territorial courts; and development of state and territorial common law.

LW8480 Taxation of Business Entities (4 Credits)

This course covers major issues relating to the taxation of corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, and other types of business entities. Topics to be considered include entity formation, capital structure, operating distributions, sale of interests, mergers and other reorganizations, and liquidations. Subchapters C, K, and S of the Internal Revenue Code will be explored. Prerequisite: Federal Income Taxation

LW6420 Texas Civil Procedure (4 Credits)

Texas Civil Procedure (4 credit hours) This course offers an examination of Texas pre-trial procedure, trial, post-verdict, and appellate procedure. In doing so the course will refer to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure. Topics covered may include preservation of error; the Texas court system; impleader; intervention; suits on a sworn account; parties; and discovery; continuances; recusal; summary judgments; jury selection; directed verdict; jury argument; jury change and verdict; post-verdict motions; findings of fact and conclusions of law in non-jury cases; jury misconduct; res judicata and collateral estoppel; and appellate procedure.

LW8350 Texas Criminal Procedure (3 Credits)

This course focuses on the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and the cases interpreting the Code. Students analyze the various provisions of the Code as it relates to the prosecution and defense of criminal defendants from arrest through conviction.

LW7314 Texas Land Titles (3 Credits)

Texas Land Titles builds upon the first-year property course and explores in more detail the basic tools and steps necessary to examination of title to real property, as well as the procedural and substantive methods of clearing or eliminating title defects. Also included in the course are methods of title assurance, mineral title, and the Texas adverse possession statutes.

LW7232 Texas Water Law (2 Credits)

This course will consider rights and interests in water, emphasizing the unique law of Texas. Topics will include interstate allocations of water affecting Texas, public rights in water, private rights in surface water and private rights in groundwater.

LW8606 Trademark and Unfair Competition (2 Credits)

This intellectual property and business course examines the nature of the legal protection afforded to those who use trademarks. Also included are problems relating to trade secrets, franchising, false advertising, commercial bribery, and unfair trade practices and competition.

LW8329 Trusts (3 Credits)

Trusts are one of the most frequently used and beneficial of the tools available to the modern estate planner. A trust is a special type of property transfer which separates the equitable interest in property from the legal interest. The holder of the legal interest, the trustee, manages the property according to the directions contained in the trust instrument and state law for the benefit of the beneficiaries who own the equitable title. The trustee is a fiduciary and must deal with the property exercising a high standard of care and with the utmost degree of loyalty. This course deals with the creation, administration, and enforcement of private and charitable trusts under the Texas Trust Code. Coverage of resulting trusts and constructive trusts is also included.

LW7303 Water Law (3 Credits)

Water Law surveys the subject of rights and interests in water. The topics covered include the common law development of the two major methods of determining water rights in surface water in the United States ("riparian rights" and "prior appropriation"), issues concerning ground water allocation, modern statutory administration of water, public trust doctrine, transboundary water issues, and federal and state authority in water management.

LW7239 Whistleblower Law (2 Credits)

Whistleblower Law (2 credits) This course is designed to give students the knowledge and practical skills needed to navigate complex fraud prevention laws. Students will examine both federal and state laws used to combat fraud against the government, including qui tam actions brought pursuant to the False Claims Act. These laws encourage and protect private citizens (whistleblowers) who bring claims against companies that are allegedly engaged in defrauding the government. Students will examine these laws and their application from the perspective of the whistleblower, the government, and the defense. Through an in-depth review of statutory law, case law, administrative history, and government memos on fraud prevention, students will gain an understanding of the significant role qui tam cases play in preventing fraud on the government. Moreover, students will take a hands-on approach to learning, including a practical assignment that involves preparing for and conducting either a whistleblower client interview or a deposition. With a rise in federal and state legislation related to whistleblower claims – and with the

government's use of such laws increasing – it is important for any student interested in pursuing a career in white collar law to have a solid foundational understanding of this area of law.

LW7427 Wills, Estates, and Trusts (4 Credits)

Wills & Estates is the study of the disposition of property at death, whether by non-probate transfers, intestate succession, or will. The course examines the different types of inter vivos transfers that have testamentary effect, such as multiple-party bank accounts and life insurance; analyzes how property passes if a person does not have a will; and details various aspects of wills including validity, revocation, interpretation, and construction. The estate administration process consisting of collecting the decedent's property, paying debts, and distributing property to heirs or beneficiaries, is also studied. The course also provides brief coverage of other estate planning issues such as professional responsibility, planning for incompetency and death, and the drafting of wills.

LW7649 Wrongful Conviction (2 Credits)

The course will examine the American criminal justice system through an unusual prism: that of cases in which innocent people have been convicted. Principle causes of wrongful convictions as well as various reform efforts will be examined. Some topics that will be covered include mistaken identification, false confessions, forensic science, post-conviction remedies, indigent defense, prosecutorial misconduct, investigation tunnel-vision and post-exoneration life of the wrongfully convicted.