Fall 2022 New Course Descriptions

**I. Jurisprudence Classes**

LAW-617: The Rule of Law

In this course we will examine the nature, bases, and importance of the rule of law. We will analyze classic and contemporary readings presenting a variety of perspectives relating to human nature, the nature of law, and the relationship between political rule and law. In addition, we will look at a variety of readings seeking to understand why the rule of law seems entrenched in some societies but not others, as well as arguments over whether the rule of law itself is primarily a guarantee of procedural forms necessary for people to plan and hold rulers accountable or a set of substantive goals (e.g. equality, justice, material benefits) to be provided by the state. Our goal: to increase students’ capacity to analyze the institutions, beliefs, and practices of their legal systems to determine whether and how the rule of law is (or is not) manifest and effective in them.

LAW-616: Changing Perspectives on Law and Jurisprudence

In this course we will examine fundamental questions relating to the nature of law, rights, justice, and the regulation of human conduct. We also will deal with questions relating to the relationship between law and morality and the proper understanding of legal reasoning and the role of judges. We will focus especially on the development of law over time and at the debates among leading schools of legal thought, including natural law theory, legal positivism, legal realism, and contemporary theories questioning the nature of law itself.

**II. Elective Classes**

LAW-721: Media Law

This class will examine the regulation of communications media, including newspapers, broadcast media, social media, and internet content generally. Students will consider current events and ongoing debates regarding mainstream media, “fake news,” social media platforms, and leak investigations, while also exploring the historical and jurisprudential underpinnings of First Amendment and media law. In weighing the interests of the free press against competing interests like privacy, security, and reputation, this class will cover topics such as defamation, rights of publicity, privacy, and access to information. Students will learn skills relevant to defending reporters and other members of the press in litigations and advisory matters.

LAW-570: Sports Law

This course covers a variety of sports law issues, involving both amateur and professional sports, and focuses upon:  legal regulation of interscholastic and intercollegiate sports; legal issues affecting the professional sports industry including antitrust, labor, collective bargaining and contracts; professional sports league agreements (CBA’s, drug testing policies, conduct rules); intellectual property; “Name, Image and Likeness” (“NIL”) issues in college sports, including the regulation thereof; Title IX gender discrimination; the legal relationship between a university and it’s “student-athletes” (are they employees?); regulation of athlete agents and their ethical duties; liability issues associated with youth/high school sports; and ESports.  Assigned readings on these legal issues will be supplemented by speakers from the NCAA; professional and collegiate sports; sports agents; intellectual property attorneys; collegiate sports and Title IX “thinktanks”; and general counsel’s offices in professional sports organizations.  Students will have the opportunity to interact via Zoom or in person with professionals in the sports business and law. It is anticipated that students may have an opportunity to counsel, with the assistance of supervising attorneys, college student-athletes about Title IX and other issues on an individual, pro-bono basis.  This course will be a graded course, with 25% of the student’s grade based upon participation in class and clinical opportunities; 25% on the basis of the mid-term exam; and 50% on the basis of a final paper, in lieu of a final exam, on a topic chosen by the student.