LLM Major Research Project
2016-2017

Contact Information:
Professor       Amy J. Schmitz
Office:         206C Hulston Hall
Office Phone:   573-884-3614
Consumer Outreach: MyConsumertips.info (website and app)
SSRN:           papers.ssrn.com/sol3/cf_dev/AbsByAuth.cfm?per_id=522704
E-mail:         schmitzaj@missouri.edu
Office Hours:   Wednesdays 3:30 - 5:30

Course Description:
This course is designed to help student to hone their research, analysis and communication skills. Students will be expected to research and write a major paper on a current topic in dispute resolution.

Course Materials:
There is not assigned textbook/casebook for this course. I will distribute readings as needed.

Grading
This is a graded course. Your grade will be based on your final project.

Information Regarding Disabilities:
This information is available in alternative formats upon request. If you have special needs as addressed by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and need assistance, please notify the Office of Disability Services, 882-4696 or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

Intellectual Pluralism
The School of Law community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects students’ rights. Students who have questions concerning the quality of instruction in this class may address concerns to either the Dean or the Director of the Office of Students’ Rights and Responsibilities. All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor at the end of the semester.

Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of the School of Law. All members of the Law School community must be confident that each person’s work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The Law School Community regards breaches of the Law School’s Honor Code as extremely serious matters. In the event that you violate our Academic Integrity Rules on any portion
of the work required for this class, you may expect a failing grade, as well as possible disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion.

**Recordings of Course Activities**
University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may make audio or video recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of Section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

**Course Requirements**
As stated above, in this course you will be working on a major research project. You will submit drafts of your project to me in stages. In addition, students are required to attend the class meetings we will have over the year and to participate in the mini-symposium to be held in the Spring semester.

**Libraries and a Law Librarian**
You will become familiar with many different research tools this year. In addition to books and scholarly journals in the Law Library and all its allied libraries, you will learn to navigate multiple databases with vast amounts of information. In fact, one of the problems you may face is information overload.

To help you with your research, a Law Librarian has been assigned to your Legal Research & Writing class. His name is John Dethman, dethmanj@missouri.edu. His office is in the Law Library between the Circulation Desk and the Reference Alcove. His telephone number is 573-884-1760.

In addition to attending your LRW classes, he will teach classes on the use of databases in the Computer Lab. More importantly, he will be available for research assistance throughout the year by appointment. I urge you to take advantage of his experience.

**Class Meetings**
Formally you will enroll in this course during the Spring 2017 semester. However, in order to give you a “head start” on your research project, we will be holding two class sessions during the fall semester. These class sessions will meet on September 30 and October 7 from 3:00 to 4:30 in Room 109. On September 30 we will be discuss the topic, “Thinking of a Research Agenda for your LLM Year”. On October 7, we will discuss the topic, “Types of Legal Scholarship”.

We will meet again as a group on January 25 (See details below)
Deliverables & Deadlines
Students are expected to turn in all their written assignments on time. I will give extensions only in the case of true emergencies beyond the control of the student.

Topic/Tentative Thesis/Paper Plan (November 9)
This is a two-page description of the topic of the project, tentative/working thesis and outline of your plan for researching and exploring the topic. A “topic” is the area of law you will address within the broad field of dispute resolution. Depending on the type of research you are conducting, a “thesis” is the position you anticipate you will take on that topic, the proposition that you will be testing, or the outcome that you expect to obtain. Your thesis may change as you work on your project. A “plan” is a simple outline of how you plan to research the issue, citations for sources you have already found, and questions you are especially eager to explore.

As we will discuss in our first fall meeting, I want to encourage you to think of your research agenda for this entire year and beyond. Accordingly, it will be permissible for you to use your research project in this class to expand, complement, explore in more detail or consider from a different perspective a topic or idea which you might have written about before or which you will be writing about in one of your other courses. If that is the cases, we certainly want to be careful that you are not just rewriting your prior work, but that you are doing something that is different enough to merit additional credit.

Revised Thesis & List of Major Sources (November 30)
If during the initial research you have modified your thesis, please submit a revised statement.

The list of major sources is intended to allow you to determine whether the topic you have selected is feasible and that it has not been addressed in the same way in the literature.

I would recommend that you meet with our library liaison, John Dethman, before the start of the Spring semester. To get the most benefit from that meeting, you should list the preliminary steps you have taken in your research and write down some targeted questions about what steps to take next.

Informal Class Presentation (January 25)
We will meet as a group to give each student the opportunity to briefly (5 to 10 minutes) summarize their topic and first section of their papers. This will take place on Wednesday, **January 25, 2017 at 3 to 4:30 or 5 in Room 107.**

First Section of Your Paper (Friday, January 27)
At the beginning of the Spring term you will turn in the equivalent of the first substantive section of your final paper. This section should include: (1) a statement of your research issue (i.e., what is the problem you are discussing); (2) a critical evaluation of the existing literature evidencing the importance of the issue/problem and demonstrating how your approach to the issue/problem will contribute to the
field of study; and, (3) a statement of your “formal” thesis (e.g, the position you are taking, the proposition you are taking or the outcome you expect to obtain). This section must be at least 10 pages in length.

For students enrolled in Legal Research & Writing with Professor Sarah Maguffee, this assignment will constitute your final assignment in that course. Professor Maguffee will grade this assignment from the perspective of the work that you will do in her class during the fall semester. I will read and provide comments to all the students enrolled in my class (LLM Major Research Project) in the context of whether you are making progress toward your final project.

**Individual Meetings (15 min. during February 6 & 8 at a time between 3:30 and 5)**
Each of you will meet with me individually for 15 minutes to discuss your progress on your project. I will have comments on the first section that you handed in on January 27.

**Revised First Section and detailed outline of the Rest of the Paper (March 1)**
You will be expected to provide a revised version of the first section of your paper and an outline for the remaining of your paper.

**First Draft (April 5)**
This should be a relatively polished first draft of the entire paper including full citations.

**Final Presentations to the Class (date and time TBD)**
You will present the substance of your paper to the class in a mini-symposium. Each student will have 15 minutes to present their paper. Each presentation will be followed by a short commentary by a fellow classmate.

**Final Paper (May 3)**
This is the final draft of the paper that takes into account all comments you have received from me and feedback you might have received during your presentation. The final paper must be at least 25 pages in length.

**General Formatting Guidelines**
Below are some general formatting guidelines for your various assignments:

- **Font:** Times New Roman, 12-point
- **Lines:** Double-spaced, except for block quotes and footnotes
- **Margins:** At least one-inch wide on all sides
- **Headings:** Include headings; justify them to the left-hand margin
- **Page Numbering:** Number every page except the first
- **Citations:** Students should use a citation format commonly used for legal scholarly writing: the ALWD ([http://www.alwd.org/publications/citation-manual/](http://www.alwd.org/publications/citation-manual/)), or the Blue Book ([https://www.legalbluebook.com/](https://www.legalbluebook.com/)). It is important to be consistent with what you choose.