

## **Summer 2020 – Course Descriptions**

### **Law 5280: Professional Responsibility (Pratzel)**

*Description:* This synchronous course satisfies the J.D. ethics requirement. The online course will provide students with the practical skills necessary to identify ethics issues, both routine and complex, and help them identify the resources available to properly resolve those issues. In addition, the course will focus on professionalism in the practice of law and its importance in improving the public perception of lawyers. Students will benefit from an understanding of the importance of ethics and professionalism to their individual legal careers. While they may ultimately practice law in any number of different work settings and specialize in various substantive practice areas, ethics and professionalism will be a daily part of their practices. The course will therefore begin with an analysis of the legal profession and the interplay between (i) defining minimum standards below which behavior may not fall, (ii) establishing standards of ideal behavior toward which attorneys should aim but cannot realistically expect to reach, and (iii) giving "practical advice" that conforms to the lawyer's ethical responsibility. The course will examine, among other topics, specific ethical and professional issues relating to the attorney-client relationship, the duty of loyalty to the client, ethical issues in litigation, safekeeping client funds, conflicts of interest, and the marketing of legal services. Hypotheticals and problems based on real situations will be used. Grades will be based on class attendance, class participation and a final, open-book essay/short answer exam.

### **Law 5320: Advanced Legal Research (Kerns, Basset, Diamond, and Shearrer)**

*Description:* Skills training in advanced research techniques and resources used in law practice. Designed to help students become more proficient, cost-efficient legal researchers and critical legal information consumers. Topics include advanced litigation research (dockets, expert witnesses, judge analytics, jury verdicts), legislative and regulatory history, transactional research, and research in areas of individual student interest. Advanced practice with free Internet research, Bloomberg, Lexis, Westlaw, and newer legal research platforms.

*Format:* This course will be team-taught by four faculty members with extensive legal research experience, both in terms of years and expertise. It will be offered in a hybrid format including both asynchronous and synchronous components. The course will be structured using the Canvas course management system. Synchronous class meetings will use Zoom, or possibly other types of webinar software accessed through an internet browser.

*Material:* The material for class will be arranged into topic-based modules. For each module, students may be asked to complete readings, watch videos, participate in discussions, and complete research exercises. Students will complete two semester-long projects. They will explore an area of law of their own choosing and identify research resources and strategies in that area. They will also compile a report for an attorney audience on a cutting-edge legal issue chosen by the professors. There will be no final exam.

### **Law 5543: Employment Law (Gely)**

*Description:* This course relates to the regulation of the employment relationship in the non-unionized workplace. The course is intended as a survey of some of the most important legal issues regarding the employer/employee relationship. There is no overlap with either Employment Discrimination, Labor Law or Workers' Compensation.

*Format:* The course will be structured in a way that provides students with the flexibility to complete the coursework at their own pace, but within some broad limits, to ensure that students are making systematic progress. To that end, the course will be offered in a hybrid format including both asynchronous and synchronous components. The material will be arranged in modules. Each module will last for one to two weeks. For each module, students will be asked to complete a set of readings and watch a set of short videos on their own time. Each module will include an assignment (e.g., a discussion board, short paper based on a problem, or group project). In addition, the instructor might schedule some short synchronous class meetings (via Zoom) during the term. There will be a final exam at the end of the term.

### **Law 5570: Externship (McGarr or Clark) – 2 Sections**

*Description:* The Externship offers students an opportunity to develop the skills necessary to bridge the gap between law school and law practice. Through the Externship, students prepare for "effective and responsible participation in the legal profession" (ABA Std. 301) by applying the core concepts learned in law school courses to the challenges presented in the actual, in-office practice of law. Details concerning the requirements and structure of the course are available at the Externship webpage. Students cannot take more than 6 hours of Externship credits, except in the Semester-in-Practice program and subjected to the additional limitations of that program. Credits earned in Landlord/Tenant Practicum count toward that 6-hour Externship limit. Graded on S/U basis only. You will be able to take this course for either 2 or 3 credits.

### **Law 5721: Law Practice Management (McGarr and Diamond)**

Managing a successful law practice requires time and project management skills, as well as knowledge about the business of practicing law and legal technology. This course explores the practical and ethical challenges that confront the solo or small firm lawyer and firms of all sizes in a period of heightened change and disruption to the legal industry. Students will be introduced to a range of resources related to business and information management, and gain practical experience in caseload management, strategic business planning, making staffing decisions, client engagement and marketing, financing and billing, and malpractice. Material presented is relevant to both the litigation and the transactional lawyer. **Professional Responsibility** can be taken concurrently.

### **Law 5875: Research in Law (Various Faculty)**

*Description:* Independent Research with a faculty member is available during the Summer, Fall and Spring Semesters. Any student enrolling for Research credit must designate at the time of enrollment the professor who will supervise the research project. Credit is earned at the rate of 20 pages per credit hour. No more than three hours of Research may be taken or counted toward the law degree. Enrollment in [LAW 5875](#) may, but need not, be structured so as to satisfy the upper-level writing requirement. Enrollment in [LAW 5875](#) Research satisfies the Law School's writing

requirement only if the project culminates in an individually authored paper of at least 20 pages, based on independent research, through a process that involves an initial draft, critique by the supervising faculty members, and rewrite. You can take this for 1-3 credits.

**Law 6730: Comparative Criminal Justice (Uphoff and Sanger)**

*Description:* This joint course is open to students from MU and from the University of the Western Cape (UWC) via zoom. The course will provide students an overview of the theory and actual practice of certain features of the South African and American criminal justice systems. The course is not designed to give students a comprehensive understanding of the South African or the American system. Rather, by focusing on certain select topics – the delivery of defense services, plea-bargaining, sentencing policies, corrections and the death penalty – our goal is for students to gain an appreciation for how two different systems grapple with very similar problems. It will be a comparative course so students will be learning about the administration of justice within the South African system while also learning about the American criminal justice system.

*Format and Materials:* The course will meet via zoom every day from June 22- July 10 for 75 minutes. Videos and readings for the course will be posted online. Videos will be watched outside of class and students will be required to write a one page reflective paper reacting to a particular aspect of each video. The video will then be discussed during a zoom session. For MU students, your materials will be posted on Twen. For the UWC students, your materials will be found on Ikamva.

*Absences:* Class attendance and participation are critical given the nature of this course and the limited number of classes. You will be expected to attend every class except for compelling circumstances. If you have internet issues and miss a class, all of the classes will be recorded so you can watch any class you miss.

*Class Participation/ Exam:* The class will be more enjoyable, and ultimately, more valuable if you are actively engaged in the class. Your class participation including your video reflective papers will count for 20% of your grade. There will be a two hour exam on **July 11, 2020**.