

HARRISBURG COURSE DESCRIPTIONS MASTER FILE

LAW 530: ADMINISTRATIVE LAW (3 CREDITS)

This course studies the law governing administrative agencies, including executive departments, in the task of carrying out governmental programs. Topics include interrelations of legislative, executive and judicial agencies in development of public policy; decision-making processes and internal procedures of administrative agencies and legislative, executive and judicial controls on them.

LAW 784: ADVANCED CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (3 CREDITS)

This course surveys the criminal justice process from arrest through appeal. Constitutional provisions, statutes, rules of criminal procedure, and practice strategies concerning prosecutorial discretion, initial appearance, pre-trial release or detention, preliminary hearing, grand jury procedure, plea bargaining and selected trial and appellate issues are considered. **Pre-requisites: Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure.**

LAW 778: ADVANCED TRIAL METHODS (2 CREDITS)

This course is designed to provide students interested in trial practice with an opportunity to study and participate in the various aspects of a trial. Students will develop a thorough understanding of each aspect of a trial, including jury selection, opening and closing statements, introduction of evidence and examination of witnesses. Case theory, courtroom ethics and professionalism will be discussed. **Pre-requisite: Trial Methods or ITAP.**

LAW 738: BANKRUPTCY (3 CREDITS)

This course will address state law creditor collection remedies such as garnishment and execution, and state law priorities among competing creditors. After examining state law remedies and priorities, we will focus on the federal Bankruptcy Code. We will discuss elements common to all (business and consumer) bankruptcies, and the principal focus of the course will be Chapter 7 liquidations in the consumer context and Chapter 13 wage-earner payout plans. At the end of the course, we will discuss some issues particular to Chapter 11 business bankruptcies.

LAW 6088X :BANKRUPTCY PREP (1 CREDIT)

Students enrolled in this class will learn the basics of consumer bankruptcy preparation. Students will be taught to recognize when a simple Chapter 7 or 13 Bankruptcy will provide an appropriate remedy for a financially distressed consumer. Students will also learn how to prepare and file the Bankruptcy Petition and Schedules. This course is not a substitute for the regular Bankruptcy course, as coverage will not include matters such as business Bankruptcies, case administration, or the powers of the Bankruptcy Trustee.

LAW 631: BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS (3 CREDITS)

A.J.D./LL.M survey course that analyzes the conduct of business in each of the principal forms of business organization, and the relative rights and liabilities of the members of such organizations and third persons. The course reviews the uniform partnership statutes, the Model Business Corporation Act, and the Delaware General Corporation Law, and considers the legal principles governing agency and partnership relationships as well as corporations. The course introduces the federal securities laws and the state statutes governing limited liability companies, limited partnerships and limited liability partnerships.

LAW 504: CIVIL PROCEDURE II (3 CREDITS)

A continuation of Civil Procedure I, this course studies civil litigation procedure, with emphasis on modern federal practice. Topics include subject matter jurisdiction, personal jurisdiction, venue, joinder, the Erie doctrine, and related concepts.

LAW 803: CLINICAL EXTERNSHIPS (2 + CREDITS)

This course provides an extern clinical assignment in the practice of law with cooperating agencies such as a district attorney, public defender; legal aid society, etc. A weekly classroom component is also part of the externship program.

Pre-requisite: Evidence; Co-requisite: Professional Responsibility.

LAW 700: CONFLICT OF LAWS (3 CREDITS)

This course examines important issues peculiar to civil actions with multi-state elements, in both the state and federal courts. The principal topics include choice-of-law (determining which state's law applies), the *Erie* doctrine (determining whether state or federal law applies in federal diversity cases), personal jurisdiction, and recognition of sister-state judgments.

LAW 508: CONTRACTS II (2 CREDITS)

A continuation of Contracts I, this course studies the law governing contracts and contractual relationships. The course introduces the student to contract formation, performance, and non-performance, and explores the role of contract law in a market society.

LAW 505: CRIMINAL LAW (3 CREDITS)

This course studies the general principles that underlie statutory criminal liability, including a consideration of their judicial application in the context of selected offenses and defenses.

LAW 506: CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (3 CREDITS)

This course provides In-depth consideration of the Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable search and seizure, the Fifth Amendment's right against compulsory self-Incrimination, and the Sixth Amendment's right to counsel, all with particular emphasis on the judicial Interpretation of the application of these constitutional provision's within the context of police Investigation of crime.

LAW 798/799: DIRECTED RESEARCH (1 OR 2CREDITS)

Students may write research papers for credit under the supervision of a full-time member of the faculty. The faculty member must approve the subject.

Pre-requisite: Successful completion of one Seminar

LAW 831: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (3 CREDITS)

This course surveys the federal and state statutes and regulatory programs which attempt to limit water pollution, air pollution, environmental degradation, species extinction, hazardous waste, and chemical regulation problems. The course will examine how and why these statutes and programs are structured the way that they are, how the laws work, and the extent to which our environmental laws achieve their goals.

LAW 915: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CLINIC (4 CREDITS)

The Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic provides you the opportunity to prepare for the practice of law through helping clients navigate the substantive and procedural aspects of environmental law. Under the guidance of the Clinic Director, you will provide assistance to individuals with environment-related legal issues throughout the State of Pennsylvania via the Widener Citizens' Environmental Help Line and, if appropriate, through direct representation of citizens in environmentally-related permit or legal proceedings. You will receive hotline phone calls, participate in client interviews, conduct follow-up legal research, prepare appropriate response documents, and, when appropriate, engage in litigation. This class includes a weekly seminar in which you will explore legal and practical issues pertaining to the representation of environmental clients in general as well as the operational aspects of the Clinic's representation of its clients.

Prerequisite: 2.3 or higher cumulative GPA; C or better in Professional Responsibility

LAW 610: FEDERAL INCOME TAX (3 CREDITS)

This course surveys and analyzes the federal system of income taxation. Topics include gross receipts, gross income, exclusions, gain-seeking and personal deductions, CREDITS, rates and tax accounting.

LAW 810: FIRST AMENDMENT (2 or 3 CREDITS)

This course focuses on constitutional rights involving speech, press, and religion. Rights of political participation, wartime limits on civil liberties, state action, associational freedoms, and constitutional and prudential limits on judicial powers are also potential topics.

Pre-requisite: Constitutional Law.

LAW 690X: FUNDAMENTALS OF LAW (2 CREDITS)

Fundamentals of Law is a pre-bar review skills-development course that provides graduating students with an intensive substantive review of selected legal material routinely tested on the bar exam, and uses problems and exercises in a bar exam format to familiarize students with techniques for answering multiple choice (MBE) questions and analyzing, organizing and writing essay and multi-state performance (MPT) questions. The course is designed as an introduction to bar preparation and is not a substitute for commercial bar preparation courses.

LAW 6035X : GOVERNMENT LAW COLLOQUIUM (1 CREDIT)

This seminar will consider the special areas of law that are involved in litigation by or against a state or local agency. It will review such substantive areas of law as mandamus; statutory construction; when the existence of a statutory procedure precludes other forms of litigation, such as a declaratory judgment action; and a constitutional challenge to a state statute on procedural, as opposed to substantive grounds. The seminar will consider real life litigation, such as the pursuit of a zoning board appeal or a workers' compensation claim.

LAW 511: INTENSIVE LEGAL ANALYSIS (I.L.A.) (2 CREDITS)

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop and refine their legal reasoning and analysis skills. Topics include: identifying an individual's learning style and problem-solving skills, critical reading of legal authorities, simple and complex rule-based reasoning, and methods of deconstructing legal rules and organizing the analysis of new legal questions. Exam-style essays and "in-basket" projects are used to practice and reinforce analytical skills.

LAW 718X: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS (2 CREDITS)

This course examines the international law of human rights, its philosophical grounding, its origins, foundational documents, international and regional institutions, enforcement limitations, important issues that have arisen around specific human rights, linkages to other international law issues, its challenges and limitations, and a discussion of its applicability to global environmental issues. The goal of the course is to provide students with a basic understanding of emerging human rights law and its potential to create a just international and national order.

LAW 777: INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION (1 CREDIT)

Students may earn one or two credits for participation in interscholastic moot court, trial advocacy and other competitions sanctioned by the law school as appropriate interscholastic competitions. The list of approved interscholastic competitions includes but is not limited to National Moot Court, Jessup International Moot Court, Douglas Moot Court, Patent Moot Court, Polsky Moot Court, American Trial Lawyers Association Competition, Texas Trial Lawyers Competition, American Bar Association Client Counseling Competition and like events.

LAW 678: INTERSCHOLASTIC TRIAL COMPETITION COLLOQUIUM (1 CREDIT)

This course is required for all students who wish to participate in interscholastic trial advocacy competitions. Enrollment is permitted only with permission of the Trial Advocacy Honor Society advisor. This intensive course will cover the basics of trial competition from case preparation through courtroom performance. This course will be graded on a pass/fail basis. **Prerequisite or Corequisite: LAW 836: Evidence**

LAW 809: JUDICIAL EXTERNSHIP (2+ CREDITS)

Students enrolled in the Judicial Externship Program are assigned to selected state and federal trial and appellate judges for a maximum of two semesters. Externs prepare legal memoranda, conduct legal research and perform duties normally assigned to a law clerk under the supervision of the assigned judge and the judge's graduate law clerk. The program is designed to enhance the student's writing and research skills, familiarize the student with court procedures, permit observation of court proceedings and enable the student to learn the operation of judicial chambers. Students will meet with the faculty supervisor for mid-semester and end-of-semester reviews. Students are required to keep a daily log and retain a copy of all written work produced for the court. Graded Pass/No Pass.

Pre-requisite: Evidence; Co-requisite: Professional Responsibility

LAW 761: LAND USE PLANNING (2 CREDITS)

This course examines legal and administrative aspects of land use and development, including zoning law and the constitutional “takings” issue. Other possible topics include nuisance law, building codes, urban redevelopment, growth controls, cluster development and open space preservation, aesthetics, environmental issues, and flood plain zoning.

LAW 770: WIDENER LAW JOURNAL BOARD (1 OR 2 CREDITS)

Please contact Widener Law Journal for more information.

LAW 763: WIDENER LAW JOURNAL STAFF (1 CREDIT)

Please contact Widener Law Journal for more information.

LAW 6015X: LAW & POLICY OF SENTENCING AND CORRECTIONS (2 CREDITS)

A course that will prepare students to represent a client in a sentencing procedure and to negotiate plea agreements. The course will focus on teaching the lawyerly skills necessary to work with sentencing guidelines, state mandated minimum sentences and alternatives to sentencing, and developing sentencing strategies for clients as prosecutor or defense counsel.

LAW 6047X LEADERSHIP AND THE LAW (1 CREDIT)

This course introduces students to different theories of leadership, leadership opportunities in the legal profession, and the link between ethics and leadership. Through case studies, students learn about famous lawyers and how skills, beliefs, and values work together to form effective leaders. This course provides students with the opportunity to work on their own personal leadership style through self-assessment and simulations.

LAW 510: LEGAL METHODS II (2 CREDITS)

This course expands on the analysis, writing and research skills introduced in Legal Methods I, and introduces new skills. Students will learn basic techniques of persuasive legal arguments, and will draft persuasive documents such as a trial memorandum and an appellate brief. Students will also learn how to research court rules, and will prepare and deliver an appellate oral argument.

LAW 512: LEGAL METHODS III – ADVANCED LEGAL ANALYSIS (2 CREDITS)

This course focuses on developing skills in legal analysis, reasoning, and writing. It provides students with the opportunity to work on critical reading, synthesis, study skills, and exam taking. Students develop and refine analytical and writing skills that are necessary for problem solving not only across the curriculum, but also in the profession. Exam-style essays and writing projects are used to practice and reinforce analytical skills.

Pre-requisites: Legal Methods I & II.

LAW 512: LEGAL METHODS III – ADVANCED LEGAL RESEARCH (2 CREDITS)

This course will build upon basic legal research skills. The tools of legal research, including technology based sources, will be investigated in detail. Legislative History, research in specialized areas of law, and non-legal research will be covered. Emphasis will be placed on research techniques and sources that students will need to rely upon their practice of law.

Pre-requisites: Legal Methods I & II.

LAW 512: LEGAL METHODS III – CONTRACT DRAFTING (2 CREDITS)

This course provides students with the opportunity to learn the basic principles of contract drafting, interpretation, and negotiation. Emphasis will be placed on drafting contractual agreements that effectuate clients' need and anticipate potential legal problems. Students will be required to work independently and collaboratively to negotiate and draft a series of written contracts.

Pre-requisites: Legal Methods I & II.

LAW 512: LEGAL METHODS III - LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING (2 CREDITS)

The goals of this course are to provide the student with: insight into the dynamics of a legislative body; appreciation of the importance of legislative history for interpreting the meaning behind legislation; an understanding of and political constraints on legal legislative and regulatory drafting; and practical drafting experiences.

Pre-requisites: Legal Methods I & II

LAW 767: MOOT COURT HONOR BOARD (1 credit)

Please contact Moot Court Honor Society for more information.

LAW 902: MOOT COURT INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION (1 or 2 credits)

Please contact Moot Court Honor Society for more information.

LAW 6070X: MOOT COURT INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION COLLOQUIUM (1 credit)

Please contact Moot Court Honor Society for more information

LAW 821: NATURAL RESOURCES LAW (2 credits)

Natural Resources Law is a survey of law and policy related to management of natural resources, including species protection, wildlife, public and private lands and water, the public trust doctrine, the national Environmental Policy Act, climate change and aspects of international environmental law.

LAW 889: NEGOTIATION (2 CREDITS)

This course provides an overview of negotiation theories and techniques. Through lectures and simulation exercises, students learn to identify their negotiating styles, to negotiate effectively and to use negotiation skills in the practice of law.

LAW 925: PA CIVIL CLINIC (3-6 CREDITS)

The Pennsylvania Civil Clinic is a one-semester client service clinical program offering an opportunity to study and to undertake actual cases in general civil litigation in the Pennsylvania courts on behalf of clients who are unable to afford legal services from traditional private sources. Clinical participants interview and counsel clients; frame legal issues and prepare for litigation; and participate in negotiations, non-judicial dispute resolution and litigation on behalf of clients before administrative agencies and state and federal trial courts. Students may also assist in appellate cases before state and federal courts. Clients are represented by clinical interns under the supervision of the Clinical Director.

Pre-requisites: Evidence & Professional Responsibility

LAW 926: PA CIVIL CLINIC LEADER (2 CREDITS)

The Pennsylvania Civil Clinic Leader is a one semester client service clinical program offered to selected students who have completed one semester in the Pennsylvania Civil Clinic. Students who are selected as Clinic Leader will continue to participate in the representation of actual clients in the general civil practice of the clinic. In addition, Clinic Leaders assist in the management of the Civil Clinic by ensuring that the materials used by the Clinic comply with applicable rules. The Clinic Leader also assists in supervising students by helping them in their research as well as their preparation for court proceedings. Clinic Leaders may also be asked to continue representation of clients from prior semesters or to work on special projects that may arise in the Civil Clinic from time to time.

Pre-requisites: Evidence, Professional Responsibility, and Pennsylvania Civil Clinic.

LAW 741: PA CIVIL PRACTICE (2 CREDITS)

This course provides a general survey of civil practice and procedure in Pennsylvania state trial courts, based primarily on the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure and the Judicial Code. This is a skills class. The emphasis will be on a practical application of the relevant procedures, their interpretations through developing case law, and their function and importance in the litigation process. Trial strategies will also be a focus. Students will draft pleadings, motions, and trial documents. Time keeping and billing exercises will also be included. Students may have the opportunity to observe an arbitration or jury trial in the Court of Common Pleas Dauphin County.

LAW 786: PRE-TRIAL METHODS (2 or 3 CREDITS)

Pre-Trial Methods is a semester-long simulation course focusing on litigation document preparation, discovery and motion practice. The course emphasizes motion practice and discovery skill, and includes written drafting exercises as well as oral deposition simulations and oral motion arguments. Pre -Trial Methods is graded A through F.

Pre-requisites: Evidence

LAW 702: PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (3 CREDITS)

This course examines the duties of lawyers toward clients, courts, and society. Ethical problems which confront the lawyer are raised and discussed in terms of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct, the Model Code of Professional Responsibility and case law. The areas covered include confidentiality, conflicts of interest, competence and unauthorized practice.

LAW 516: PROPERTY II (2 CREDITS)

A continuation of Property I, this course studies the basic elements of the law of real and personal property. Topics in personal property may include ownership and possession, finders' rights, bailment, bona fide purchasers, gifts, bank accounts, and accession. Topics involving real property include adverse possession, estates and future interests, marital interests, concurrent ownership, and landlord-tenant law. The course may also include other topics which are covered in more detail in upper level electives: nuisance law, zoning, constitutional limitations on public land use regulations, eminent domain, private land use restrictions (easements, licenses, servitudes), and real estate conveyancing and recording.

LAW 655: REMEDIES (3 CREDITS)

This course examines the various forms of relief available to prevailing parties in civil actions, primarily actions based in contract or tort. Thus, it covers damages, restitution, and equitable

relief (specific performance and injunctions). The course also treats the use of the contempt power to enforce court orders.

LAW 646: SALES AND LEASES (3 CREDITS)

This course covers Articles 2 and 2A of the Uniform Commercial Code. Coverage generally includes all the stages of contracts for the sale and lease of goods from formation to breach and remedies. Documents of title (Article 7) and payment by means of letters of credit (Article 5) may also be covered. The course may also include comparisons and contrasts with the Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods.

LAW 600: SECURED TRANSACTIONS (3 CREDITS)

This course provides an introduction to the law governing contractually created interests in personal property used to secure payment or performance of obligations. The course involves a study of the creation, perfection, priority and enforcement of security interests in personal property under Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code. The course also includes an examination of relevant provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and some other state and federal statutes that affect security interests. **Prerequisite: Property I**

LAW 634: SEM: CHILDREN & THE LAW (2 CREDITS)

In this course, we will explore the interaction among child, family and state. Our study will focus on fundamental questions that arise from this interaction: Who decides on behalf of the child? How does the law allocate power over and responsibility for children in our society? When and how should the state intervene in the parent-child relationship? We will examine these questions in a number of different contexts: abuse, neglect, foster care, adoption, divorce (custody and child support), medical treatment, and constitutional rights of children. Throughout our discussion of current practices and proposed reforms, we will attempt to keep the child at the center of the debate.

LAW 638: SEM: INSURANCE (2 CREDITS)

Studies the law of the insurance enterprise including insurance marketing, theories of insurable interest, measures of recovery, subrogation, protected parties, nature of loss, warranties, representations, concealment, and rights at variance with policy provisions.

LAW 722: SEM: PRIVACY LAW AND POLICY (2 CREDITS)

The seminar will focus on legal rights and remedies related to privacy. It will consider constitutional, statutory, and common law doctrines that protect individual control of personal information and decisions. Class sessions will center on legal problem solving in judicial, legislative, administrative and private client counseling settings. Student papers on various aspects of privacy can satisfy the Writing Requirement.

LAW 699X: SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN LEGAL ETHICS (1 CREDIT)

The advanced problems course will take a more in-depth look at the very real and very serious professional responsibility challenges which arise in everyday practice of law. We will move the consideration of professional responsibility from the theoretical study of moral codes to the application of those codes in light of other law, moral and professional considerations and the individual student's own sense of proper action. The ultimate purpose of the course is to arm the student with a sophisticated understanding of the workings of the moral and professional

rules applicable to law practice, to train the student in identification of the ethical questions which frequently arise in law practice and thus to enhance the value of the student to him/herself and to the employing firm or organization. (Inter-semester; 2-days, 1 credit)
Pre-requisite: Professional Responsibility

LAW 773: STATE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (3 CREDITS)

This course examines the significance of state constitutions, their role in our federal system, and competing approaches to their interpretation. Particular emphasis is placed on the importance of state declarations of rights in providing guarantees in addition to, and different from, federal guarantees of individual rights, and on separation of powers issues. Other topics include local government, public education, state and local taxation, limits on debt and expenditures, and the processes of amending or revising state constitutions.

Pre-requisite: Constitutional Law

LAW 972: TAXATION OF BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (3 CREDITS)

This course surveys the federal income tax consequences associated with doing business as a partnership, limited liability company, corporation, and S corporation. It examines the tax issues arising upon the formation, operation, sale, and liquidation of the business entity. Students will spend significant time on statutory interpretation. **Pre-requisite: Federal Income Tax**

LAW 520: TORTS II (3 CREDITS)

A continuation of Torts I, this course examines and analyzes the general theories of tort liability for injuries to persons or property: intentional misconduct, negligence, and strict liability. The course may also introduce principles and theories of products liability. Defenses to all theories of liability are also covered.

LAW 781: TRIAL METHODS (2 or 3 CREDITS)

Trial Methods is a semester-long course focusing on oral trial practice skills and on strategy and planning for civil or criminal trials. One hour each week will be devoted to lectures and demonstrations of trial skills. Two hours each week will be devoted to simulation exercises under the supervision of experienced practitioners and judges. The course will conclude with a short jury trial. Trial Methods is graded pass/fail. Students may not take both Trial Methods and I.T.A.P.

Pre-requisite: Law 836: Evidence. (Pre-Trial Methods is not a Pre-requisite for Trial Methods.)

LAW 834: WILLS & TRUSTS (4 CREDITS)

The course covers in testate succession; testamentary capacity; execution, revocation and component parts of wills; interpretation of wills; constructive trusts; will substitutes; creation and interpretation of inter vivos and testamentary trusts; future interests; the Rule Against Perpetuities; and ethical and practical considerations in drafting wills and trusts. The course may cover charitable trusts; powers of appointment; fiduciary responsibility; administration of trusts and estates; introduction to estate and gift tax law.

LAW 745: WORKERS' COMPENSATION (2 CREDITS)

This course studies the development and application of workers' compensation statutes, combining theoretical and practical approaches. Among the topics that will be covered are: statutory elements of a claim for an accident to be work-related and compensable; defenses,

burdens of proof, and procedure; distinctions among occupational injury, disease, and stress claims; different types of compensation on civil actions and related claims for damages and disability; and current legislative proposal.