

## Selected Course Descriptions/Information for Spring 2023

This document provides a description for some courses (like seminars) that are not described in the online course catalog, or for which we'd like to provide you some additional information.

### Seminar Descriptions

**920. Illinois Evidence**, Professor McAdams (3 credits). Illinois codified its law of evidence for the first time in 2012. The Illinois Rules of Evidence followed the basic structure of the Federal Rules of Evidence but incorporated existing Illinois common law where it was divergent from the federal rules. Several of the Illinois differences are quite significant, especially in criminal cases. The seminar will explore the Illinois evidence variations. Students will research and write a paper discussing both the differences in approach and how those differences impact trial strategy and practice. The successful completion of the basic course in Evidence is a prerequisite.

**928. Privacy Law**, Professor Ormerod (3 credits). Today's headlines are filled with reports of new threats and invasions of privacy from governments, corporations, and hackers (both individual and collective) who have access to and control over our personal information. Under the auspices of national security and fighting crime, governments wiretap computer and telephone networks; corporations track our digital footprints to sell us targeted advertising; and hackers hack into our computers and mobile phones to spy on us and steal our identities. All of these actors take advantage of new technology, using the Internet and breaches in "Big Data" security, to efficiently victimize citizens. Why does the public seem so indifferent about many of these new threats? How should policymakers respond to these privacy dangers? How do we strike a balance between privacy and security? This course will explore all of these questions and more.

This course will explore the history of US privacy law, its evolution in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and the challenges of regulating information in the digital era where individuals and institutions both need and reveal information constantly. In our attempts to understand the balance between information disclosure and privacy, we will draw from case law and recent developments in the high-tech field to examine and study privacy law in all of its relevant forms, including torts, contracts, property, constitutional law, and statutory law. Upon successful completion of this course, students will therefore have a requisite understanding of the principles of information privacy law.

**936. The Decolonization of International Law and Governance**, Professor Gwiazdon (3 credits). This course will explore modern western jurisprudence as a product of colonialism and the responsibility of states and international institutions to decolonize their law and governance systems. It will do this through a human rights lens, including civil, political, and social rights, beginning with the history of imperialism, colonialism, and independence movements, and their guiding principles, purposes, actors, and methodologies. It will look at the particular harms to Indigenous Peoples and the enslaved, as well as the role of race, sex, and religion, and ask whether

and how colonial systems are still in place today in international law and governance, including within domestic policies. It will conclude by using the United States as a case study, exploring whether present-day US state and foreign policy supports or counters historic colonial legacies.

It is recommended, but not required, to take International Human Rights Law (646) and/or Public International Law (690) prior to this course.

**981. Critical Race Theory Mini-Seminar**, Professor Falkoff (1 credit). This course will introduce students to Critical Race Theory (CRT), a set of ideas and scholarly practices that has its origins in law schools in the 1970s. Broadly speaking, CRT scholars and activists study and seek to transform relationships among race, racism and power. Unlike traditional civil rights discourse and its incremental approach to progress, CRT questions premises like the existence neutral principles of constitutional law. It has been an influential movement in law and other fields (including education), but it has always been controversial. We will study some of the foundational texts of the movement and read some scholarship by current CRT-oriented academics. There will be no tests, quizzes, or papers. In order to foster conversation, enrollment will be limited. The course is worth one credit and students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis. Successful completion of the course will not qualify a student for upper-level writing credit.

### **Notes on Other Courses**

**676. Bar Fundamentals Workshop** (2 credits). Those students who are not ranked in the top 25 percent of their class at the end of the spring semester of their second year of law school are required to enroll in and pass the Bar Fundamentals Workshop during the spring semester of their third year of law school (if they plan to graduate in May).

**710. Legal Analysis: Skills & Strategies** (2 credits). Those students who have the ten lowest cumulative GPAs in their class at the end of the spring semester of the second year of law school are required to enroll in the Legal Analysis: Skills and Strategies course during the fall or spring semester of their third year of law school. All students who are graduating in December of their third year must take the course in the fall semester of their third year. The remaining slots in this limited enrollment course will be open to all members of the third-year class. If the class is over-subscribed, enrollment preference will be given to students ranked in the bottom half of their class at the end of the spring semester of their second year of law school.

This course focuses on instruction designed to help students improve their test-taking skills for each of the three components of the bar examination: multiple choice questions, essay questions and the Multistate Performance Test (MPT). Basic skills such as outlining, memorizing, organization and analysis will be reviewed and assessed. Other skills, including time-management and self-assessment, will also be addressed. This course is pass/fail.

**725. Trial Advocacy** (3 credits). This course meets twice a week. There are three sections of the course. All students in each section will be enrolled in a common classroom session that is taught on Tuesdays at 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. When you enroll, you must select one weekly courtroom session — the section that meets on Thursdays from 12:30 to 2:20 p.m. *or* one of the two evening sections that meets on Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:50 p.m. Please be sure to add your name to the waitlist if enrollment fills up! There is an excellent chance we will open up another section *if* there is an appreciable number of students who are on the waitlist.

### **Mandatory Bar Courses**

As noted in the cover email, all students who possess a grade point average below 2.60 at the end of the spring semester of their 1L year must take and pass six “bar courses” prior to graduation:

- Business Associations I (offered in fall and spring);
- Criminal Procedure: Police Investigations (offered in spring);
- Evidence (offered in fall and spring);
- Family Law (offered in spring);
- Secured Transactions (offered in fall); and
- Trusts & Estates (offered in spring).

*This requirement must be met by students who matriculated in fall 2017 and later.*