

SUMMER 2017 - ELECTIVE DESCRIPTIONS

Cancelled – low enrollment

NEW LAW E554 — Advanced Criminal Procedure — (3 units)

Prerequisite(s): ~~Successful completion of Crimes, Criminal Procedure, & Evidence preferred — 1st year~~

~~This course builds on the foundation learned in the requisite courses by focusing on the constitutional, statutory, ethical, and practical issues which confront all stake holders in the adjudication of a criminal case. We will discuss the roles of law enforcement, prosecutors, defense counsel (both private and public), the bench, and adjunct professionals as we move from prefiling decisions and discretion, through pretrial work, plea bargaining, trial, and sentencing. Attention will be paid to special considerations which confront the criminal justice practitioner, including interdisciplinary work with addicted, homeless, and mentally ill clients. The course will be taught through a weekly lecture, as well as the reading and briefing of relevant cases and statutory authority. Not unlike practitioners, students will also be given raw materials from a felony prosecution and will be asked to apply what they have learned as they develop a theory of their case and engage in written and oral advocacy on behalf of their clients.~~

NEW LAW E502-3 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Survey / Mediation – (3 units)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of 2nd year

The purpose of this course is to give students an understanding of various dispute resolution processes which have come to be described under the umbrella term “alternative dispute resolution.” Primary emphasis is on arbitration, settlement conference, and mediation techniques in the context of those fields most familiar to practicing lawyers. Comparisons are made to standard civil litigation methods as a way to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of each process, much as a lawyer would want to do in advising a client. As time permits, consideration is also given to the general question of the role of the law in shaping and promoting these dispute resolution techniques.

LAW E547 California Government & Administrative Law – (2 units)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Introductory classes or equivalent

This course will teach students the fundamental legal framework of California cities and counties. It focuses on both substantive areas of municipal law and the process required when local governments legislate and adjudicate. The course will provide practical information, discuss current issues facing local governments, and discuss the most recent, cutting-edge cases.

LAW E508-1,-2,-3 Clinical Education – (1, 2, or 3 units)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of 2nd year required coursework

There will be a **mandatory Clinical Education class on Thursday, May 4th from 5-6 p.m. in Room #TBD.** You must pick-up a Clinical Education packet in the Law School Office or download from the syllabi page on the www.empirestudent.com website. Students need to review and bring the Clinical Education packet to the first class indicated above. Third- and fourth-year students are allowed to work in public or private law offices for unit credit. Students may receive one hour of credit for each 48 hours of participation. A student may receive up to three units of credit per academic year. A student who participates in the program may receive a maximum five units of credit. No more than three units may be earned from the same internship. Participants in the Clinical Education Program have the option to register with the California State Bar through its Practical Training of Law Students Program. Registration requires completing Student, Dean, and Supervising Attorney(s) forms and submitting the completed forms and the filing fee to the Los Angeles office of the State Bar. Forms are available in the Law School Administrative Office. In order for the student to receive credit, the student must enroll in the Clinical Education class which meets at least three times during the semester. At the conclusion of each semester, the supervising attorney must submit an evaluation report of the student on forms provided by the School of Law. Approved clinical education units will be charged the same tuition rate as all other academic units.

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Cancelled – low enrollment ~~NEW LAW E555 — Death Penalty in the 21st Century Class — (2 units)~~

~~Prerequisite(s): Completion of 2nd year preferred~~

~~This is an in-depth look at the US death penalty (DP) and an opportunity to write a researched paper. no exams, students write a publishable quality research paper on Possible topics including: DP & purposes of punishment; dp history; 8th amendment meanings; DNA; political advantages of dp; international aspects, including foreign court decisions; extradition; deterrence; retribution; closure; brutalization; reversals; caprice; charging and sentencing standards; regional/international differences in seeking or imposing dp; geographical disparity; poor lawyering; costs; constitutional interpretation; comparison of Supreme Court cases where inconsistency appears; capital juries; how innocent people wind up on death row; mental illness issues. Being pro or contra dp is immaterial for grading.~~

LAW E510-1,-2,-3 Disability Law Clinic – (3 units – student option of 1, 2 or 3 units)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of 2nd year and good academic standing

Six law students are invited to work in the Disability Law Clinic, the area's primary resource for information and representation on the law as it pertains to people with disabilities, under the supervision of an attorney. Each student will be assigned several cases on which they will participate in all areas of case development from client interviews to court appearances. The cases assigned will all be in the area of Administrative Law.

LAW E513 Elder Law Clinic – (2 units)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of 1st year and good academic standing

This clinic provides students with real-life client counseling opportunities with senior citizens. The clinic allows students to interact with clients, provide advice, follow-up, and direct clients to legal and non-legal resources. Students will draft legal documents and correspondence under the supervision of a practicing attorney. The clinic will provide the public with free legal advice.

LAW E559 History of American Law – (2 units)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Introductory classes or equivalent

The Course provides an overview of major themes in the development of the legal system of the United States, relevant legal theories, and the life and work of significant legal professionals (both judges and lawyers), from Colonial Times until the present.

LAW E524 Immigration Law Clinic – (2 units)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of 2nd year and good academic standing

The immigration law clinic is designed to provide students with hands-on, practical experience working on U visa cases for victims of crime, and/or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals applications. Under the supervision of the professor, students will be responsible for all aspects of case management for the clients assigned to them. Responsibilities include performing client interviews, conducting legal analysis, gathering evidence, drafting and filing applications, and maintaining client correspondence. Students are expected to adhere to the rules of professional conduct at all times. This includes maintaining client confidentiality, interacting respectfully with clients, and pursuing all casework in a diligent and timely manner.

LAW E545-3 Law and Literature – (3 units)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Introductory classes or equivalent

This course will explore the relationship between law and literature. We will examine interrelated topics through a variety of legal, literary, and philosophical works. Special emphasis will be on studying literature to understand law and legal theories, including social and political order, formalism, equity, law and morality, and problems with the search for truth. (Note: When syllabus is published it will contain exact start and end dates)

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LAW E528 Law Office Management – (2 units)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of second-year required coursework.

This class discusses the financial and administrative aspects of owning and operating a law practice. Students learn to use computer programs for calendaring, docketing, client billing, litigation support, and document preparation.

LAW E548-2, -3 Legal Aid Clinic – (student option of 2, or 3 units)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of 1st year or Dean's recommendation and good academic standing

This class provides students with real life client counseling opportunities and exposure to a variety of poverty law topics. The clinic allows students to interact with clients, provide legal advice under the supervision of an attorney, draft simple pleadings, and direct clients to legal and non-legal resources. Students may work in the areas of Unlawful Detainers, Restraining Orders, Elder Abuse, and Guardianships. Students will draft legal documents and correspondence under the supervision of a practicing attorney. Some students may gain the opportunity to attend court hearings.

LAW E535 Self Help Access Center (SHAC) – (2 units)

Prerequisites: Completion of 2nd year required coursework preferred and good academic standing.
Prefer completion of LAW R502–Community Property.

This clinic provides students working with self-represented litigants. All cases are in the areas of family law. SHAC offers free legal services to persons who have a related case in Sonoma County. Students will meet individually with parties and assist them with filing the complex court documents for divorce, paternity, custody, support. Students will learn Essential Forms, DissoMaster, drafting of pleadings and local court practices, and communication skills with individuals going through emotional family law issues. A supervising attorney will oversee the work.

LAW E537-1,-2,-3 Small Claims Advisory Clinic – (student option of 1, 2, or 3 units)

Prerequisites: Completion of 2nd year or Dean's approval, and good academic standing

Empire College is pleased to provide guidance to people involved in Small Claims matters. In agreement with the Sonoma County Superior Court, the law school operates an advisory which provides help to people with questions regarding small claims cases. Under the supervision of an experienced professor, students give information on the preparation and presentation of a small claims action. Walk-in and telephone assistance is available. Matters include landlord/tenant issues; automobile sales and repair; breach of contract and construction disputes.

FREE Optional Class – No Tuition Fee charged for Workshop below:

Effective Legal Writing Skills Workshop

This course focuses on effective skills for all types of legal writing, both objective and persuasive. We will discuss and practice elements of usage and style, including punctuation, grammar, word choice, syntax, paragraph structure, and document organization. Special emphasis will be on brevity, clarity and structural simplicity. (Note: When syllabus is published it will contain exact start and end dates)