

**HARRISBURG COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
SPRING 2016**

LAW 788: 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 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 (2-4 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 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 832: EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION LAW (2 CREDITS)

This course studies federal law governing discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, and disability. The course explores theories of discrimination and covers litigation under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, as well as selected topics under other employment discrimination and civil rights statutes.

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 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 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 690: FUNDAMENTALS OF THE BAR EXAM (2 CREDITS)

Fundamental of the Bar Exam is a pre-bar review skills-development course that uses bar examination materials to familiarize students with techniques for answering the multiple choice, essay, and performance test questions found on the bar examination. The course focus on bar exam skills and is not a comprehensive review of the substantive law tested on the bar exam. Students will be required to work collaboratively in class and will have regular homework assignments to complete. This course is not a substitute for a commercial bar preparation course.

LAW 819: GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING (1 CREDIT)

This course provides a discussion of the elements, practices and processes of government contracting dealing with applicable statutes, regulations and policies. Topics include methods of procurement, socioeconomic policies, bid protests, contract changes and terminations, issues of disputes and claims, debarment and suspension, and procurement ethics.

LAW 6035: 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 703: IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION LAW (3 CREDITS)

This three-credit course is a survey of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Title 8 of the U.S. Code, and related case law and regulations. The course includes an introduction to the historical and statutory evolution of current immigration law as well as a review of the major subtopics within the law, such as legal immigration, immigration and employment, non-immigrant classifications, inadmissibility and deportability, constitutional issues and limitations, refugee and asylum matters, citizenship, illegal immigration and employer sanctions. The course addresses current issues and controversies as well as the political and public policy factors reflected by U.S. immigration law.

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 772: 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/Corequisite: LAW 836: Evidence

LAW 809: JUDICIAL EXTERNSHIP (2-4 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 REVIEW BOARD (1 OR 2 CREDITS)

Please contact Widener Law Journal or Widener Journal of Law, Economics and Race for more information.

LAW 762: WIDENER LAW REVIEW NOTE (1 CREDIT)

Please contact Widener Law Journal or Widener Journal of Law, Economics and Race for more information.

LAW 763: WIDENER LAW REVIEW STAFF (1 CREDIT)

Please contact Widener Law Journal or Widener Journal of Law, Economics and Race for more information.

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
Enrollment: Limited to 20 students

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
Enrollment: Limited to 20 students

LAW 512: LEGAL METHODS III – WRITING SKILLS FOR THE GENERAL LAW PRACTICE (2 CREDITS)

This course will concentrate on enhancing students' writing, reasoning and research skills through drafting documents essential to the practice of law in a small or medium-sized law firm. The course will focus on creating professional documents through recognition of purpose and audience, effective organization, sound legal reasoning, clarity of writing and effective revision. Students will have the opportunity to refine the research, analytical, and writing skills that they acquired in the first year and to expand their legal communication skills through drafting documents for clients, courts and other counsel. Students will be evaluated on a series of written exercises and at least one major writing assignment.

Pre-requisites: Legal Methods I & II
Enrollment: Limited to 20 students

LAW 767: MOOT COURT HONOR BOARD (1 or 2 credits)

Please contact Moot Court Honor Society for more information.

LAW 764: MOOT COURT HONOR SOCIETY (1 credit)

Please contact Moot Court Honor Society for more information.

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

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

Please contact Moot Court Honor Society for more information.

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.

This course is not open to students who have taken Law 849X: Interviewing, Counseling & Negotiating.

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 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 850: SMALL PRACTICE MANAGEMENT (2 CREDIT)

This course focuses on the creation and management of solo or small-firm legal practices. Topics covered include marketing of a legal practice (both traditional and internet), important organizational agreements and documents, leasing office space, malpractice insurance and controlling risk, time management software, billing and collections, and other topics. This 2-credit course is graded.

LAW 800: STATE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW (1 CREDIT)

This course examines the practice of administrative law in the states with particular emphasis on Pennsylvania. Building on the foundation of the first-year federal administrative law course, State Administrative Law has two objectives. One goal is to help students develop a pragmatic orientation in preparation for the practice of state administrative law. The second objective of the course is to examine differences between state and federal administrative law. First, state procedural due process and separation of powers law are different, and frequently litigated. Second, the text of the Pennsylvania constitution itself is unique, which has led to variations from federal administrative law. Third, Pennsylvania has its own statutory administrative code, which is different from the federal Administrative Procedure Act. Fourth, some areas of administrative law are more pervasive in the states. For example, licensing application, renewal, suspension and revocation practice and procedure are major parts of state law. The course will examine all of these areas at length.

Professor Bio: Administrative Law Judge Joel H. Cheskis has served in the Harrisburg office of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Office of Administrative Law Judge since 2011 where he has presided over a variety of cases involving telecommunications, electric, natural gas, water, sewer and transportation issues. Prior to that time, he was an Assistant Consumer Advocate with the Office of Consumer Advocate from 1998 to 2011 where he represented consumer interests in over 100 cases involving utility matters before state and federal courts and agencies with a concentration in telecommunications and broadband law. Judge Cheskis received his Masters of Business Administration from Temple University in Philadelphia in 2009, his Juris Doctor degree from the Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle in 1997 and his Bachelor of Science from the Roy H. Park School of Communications at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York in 1993. Judge Cheskis was recently appointed to serve as a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility Committee.

Pre-requisite: Administrative Law or Professor Family approval

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 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 vivo 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.