HARRISBURG COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
SUMMER & FALL 2015

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 879: ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (2 CREDITS)

This course considers all the alternatives to traditional adversarial state and federal court adjudication, such as arbitration, mediation, negotiation, dispute prevention, conciliation, neutral facilitators, and private judging. It also examines court-annexed dispute resolution, such as mediated court settlement, summary jury trials, mini-trials and the use of referees and masters. Having identified and examined the emerging alternative techniques, the various methods are examined for effectiveness in light of the growing acceptance of ADR by the courts in all areas, including public policy questions. The course consists of a combination of lectures and class discussions, videos, and guest speakers. All students will participate in simulations or "mock" interviewing and counseling, negotiation, and mediation sessions.

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 733: BUSINESS PLANNING (2 CREDITS)

Selected practical problems involving the planning of business transactions, with emphasis upon the small business enterprise, are examined. Topics include: organization of close corporations, partnerships and LLCs; employee compensation; sexual harassment and discrimination issues; executive hiring negotiations; and raising capital. This course is strongly suggested for anyone who plans on representing businesses.

LAW 503: CIVIL PROCEDURE I (3 CREDITS)

This course studies civil litigation procedure, with emphasis on modern federal practice. Topics include pleadings, motion practice, discovery, joinder, summary judgment, and related topics.

LAW 664: CLIMATE CHANGE (1 or 2 credits)

Climate change driven by global warming is one of the great environmental, economic, social and legal challenges facing the world, and is already reshaping the legal landscape. This seminar will examine the science, economics, and social implications of climate change driven by global warming. The seminar will consider the diverse array of local, state, national, and international legal responses to these daunting challenges. Student papers will research and analyze concrete legal developments in the U.S. (primarily at the state level), in other nations, or internationally. This seminar is intended to provide students with the legal tools and conceptual framework needed to practice in and shape the emerging law of climate change.

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 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 602: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (4 CREDITS)

This course introduces the United States Constitution as a source of law, largely through decisions of the United States Supreme Court. It examines foundational theories of government and individual rights from historical as well as contemporary perspectives. Topics may include judicial review, federalism, congressional power, executive power, due process, equal protection, and freedom of expression.

LAW 507: CONTRACTS I (3 CREDITS)

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 734: COPYRIGHT AND TRADEMARK (3 credits)

This course surveys primarily the laws and policies of copyright and trademark law, with a secondary emphasis on related areas of law such as trade secret, rights of publicity, unfair competition, contractual protection of ideas and patent protection of inventions in varying degrees. Topics to be covered include the subject matter of copyright and trademark; ownership and transfer of copyrights and trademarks; the rights afforded to copyright and trademark owners; duration of protection; infringement; and remedies.

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

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 836: EVIDENCE (3 CREDITS)

This course studies the law governing proof of disputed factual matters in criminal and civil trials, including, but not limited to, issues of relevancy, competency, hearsay and other exclusionary rules, and the privileges of witnesses.

LAW 636: FAMILY LAW (2 OR 3 CREDITS)

This course considers state and constitutional issues relating to the regulation of sexual and family relationships. Among the areas that may be covered are defining what constitutes a family, entry into marriage, divorce, and its economic consequences (alimony, property distribution and child support) and child custody. The course draws on constitutional principles, statutes, and the common law to study the family in the legal system.

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 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 779: INTENSIVE TRIAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM (I.T.A.P.) (3 CREDITS)

Intensive Trial Advocacy is a three-credit, seven-day NITA-style trial advocacy training program, adapted from the NITA Regional Trial Advocacy course designed for young practitioners. Students develop trial advocacy skills by seeing live and videotape demonstrations of proper trial advocacy techniques, which are followed by small group simulations taught by experienced trial practitioners and trial advocacy teachers. THIS IS THE EQUIVALENT TO TRIAL METHODS. A STUDENT MAY NOT TAKE BOTH.

Pre-requisite: Evidence.
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 770: WIDENER LAW REVIEW BOARD (1 OR 2 CREDITS)

Please contact Widener Law Review for more information.

LAW 762: WIDENER JOURNAL OF LAW, ECONOMICS & RACE NOTE (1 credit)

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

LAW 762: WIDENER LAW REVIEW NOTE (1 CREDIT)

Please contact Widener Law Review for more information.
LAW 763: WIDENER JOURNAL OF LAW, ECONOMICS & RACE STAFF (1 credit)
Please contact Widener Journal of Law, Economics & Race for more information.

LAW 763: WIDENER LAW REVIEW STAFF (1 CREDIT)
Please contact Widener Law Review for more information.

LAW 509: LEGAL METHODS I (3 CREDITS)
This course introduces basic techniques of legal analysis, writing and research. Students will learn how to read legal authorities, conduct legal research, analyze legal problems, and draft predictive legal memoranda. Course requirements include substantial writing assignments.

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 645: LEGISLATION (2 or 3 CREDITS)
This course studies the enactment and interpretation of statutes, principally on the national level. As such, the course is one of separation of powers, as we consider the exercise of governmental power by, and the relationship between, the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Students will learn tools for interpreting statutes and for arguing in favor of one interpretation over another; the course is not designed to teach doctrinal lessons. Students should have a basic familiarity with the legislative process and the separation of powers before beginning the course, which one can learn by reading an introductory text.

LAW 767: MOOT COURT HONOR BOARD (1 or 2 credits)
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 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 743: PA CRIMINAL PRACTICE (2 CREDITS)

This course provides an examination of various statutes, court decisions, procedural rules and defense and prosecution strategies involved in the journey of a criminal case through the Pennsylvania court system, including arrest, preliminary hearing, discovery, pre-trial motions, trial, sentencing, and appeal.

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 515: PROPERTY I (4 CREDITS)

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, bailments, 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 760X: REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS (2 OR 3 CREDITS)

This course covers real estate conveyancing and financing. Principal topics include the roles of the attorney and broker in a real estate transaction, conveyancing issues, mortgage financing, and title protection. The course may also cover several of the following topics: environmental issues, bankruptcy issues, shared facilities ownership (condominiums, co-ops and homeowner associations) and shopping center development.

Pre-requisites: Property I and II

LAW 7001: RIGHT TO KNOW (ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS)

This course will review various statutory, constitutional, and common law rights of access to public records of government agencies with an emphasis on Pennsylvania's Right to Know Law. In addition, the Federal Freedom of Information Act and access to judicial records will be analyzed. Issues arising in accessing records from local, Commonwealth, and federal agencies will be discussed from both the agency and requester sides. How records requests are formulated and the appeal process from the agency to the Office of Open Records to the Common Pleas and Commonwealth Courts will be reviewed.

LAW 646: SALES AND LEASES (3 CREDITS)

This course covers Articles 2 and 2A of the Uniform Commercial Code. Coverage generally includes all
Sustainable development is the internationally and nationally recognized framework for reconciling development (economic development, social wellbeing, and peace and security) with environmental protection and restoration. Lawyers are using sustainable development in a variety of different ways, and are almost certainly going to use sustainable development even more in the future. Sustainable development provides clients with more choices, can reduce their costs, and will enable them to better address climate change and resource constraints. Lawyers who understand the decision-making tools and skills of sustainable development will be better able to help clients than those who do not. This class will discuss in detail the decision-making tools of sustainable development (such as integrated decision-making, precautionary approach). It will also discuss specific approaches to sustainable development in law practice. Students will write one or more practice-oriented papers. Students can take this either as a skills class or to satisfy the writing requirement, but not both.

This seminar covers and analyzes the cutting edge legal issues and principles, developments, and business practices in the entertainment industry. Primary emphasis is on the impact of digital technology and the Internet in the film, television, publishing and music industries, but the course may also address fashion, gaming, and virtual worlds and their currencies. Although the specific topics covered in a given semester will vary and be driven by the current headlines, likely areas of interest include constitutional protection of entertainment projects, copyright protection, creative control, credit, defamation, enforcement of contracts, idea disclosure, impact of new technologies, marketing of entertainment product, privacy, right of publicity, social regulation of entertainment products, talent representatives and trademark protection.

Each student will be expected to participate in class discussions (including weekly “hot topics” debates), maintain a Twitter account specifically for this class to microblog about issues relevant to the class, write a paper of publishable quality on a topic chosen by the student in consultation with the professor, and make an in-class presentation on the topic.

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 519:  TORTS I (2 CREDITS)**

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 (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. _Students may not take both Trial Methods and I.T.A.P._

Pre-requisite: Law 836: Evidence.

Note: 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 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.