

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Spring 2016

^{MBE} Tested on the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE)

^{MEE} Tested on the Multistate Essay Examination (MEE)

^{MBE MEE} **Advanced Criminal Procedure (8349-01) (3 credit hours).**

This course will cover the procedural rules applicable to various stages in the development of a criminal case from pretrial stages through appeal. Coverage will include statutory and other sources of procedural law outside the U.S. Constitution, and may also include rules derived from relevant federal constitutional law, to the extent these are not treated in the Constitutional Criminal Procedure course. Topics considered include issues related to search and seizure, privileges, preliminary hearings, bail, pleas and plea bargaining, jury selection, fair trials, sentencing and judgment, double jeopardy and post conviction relief. The constitutional aspects of this course may be tested on the MBE and MEE.

^{MEE} **Conflict of Laws (8378-01) (3 credit hours).**

This course examines the principles guiding the courts in deciding which state's law to apply when dealing with a legal controversy in which there are elements involving more than one state. The general subject of jurisdiction is considered. The remainder of the course is concerned with an analysis of choice-of-law problems.

^{MEE} **Family Law (7342-01) (3 credit hours).**

This course is an overview of the legal relationships created by family associations. Particular emphasis is placed on the relationships between parents and child and between husband and wife. Other topics include the nature of marriage, separation, divorce, adoption, and emancipation.

^{MBE MEE} **Federal Courts (8383-01) (3 credit hours).**

This course examines the nature and role of the federal court system within the American constitutional system of government. Particular emphasis is placed on the power of Congress to create courts and allocate jurisdiction, the power of the Supreme Court to establish federal rules of court, the relationship of federal and state jurisdiction, the application of choice of law principles in federal courts, the development of federal common law, and alternative bases of federal jurisdiction, including habeas corpus jurisdiction. *(For current 2Ls, this course will be a required course in spring of their third year; 2Ls intending to graduate in December 2016 should take this course as a 2L.)*

Federal Crimes (8310-02) (3 credit hours).

This course examines complex federal criminal litigation through lectures and a simulated investigation and prosecution of a drug ring. Statutes considered include the Hobbs Act and RICO, and those dealing with wiretapping and mail fraud.

MBE MEE Sales (7244-01) (2 credit hours) (Elective course for 3Ls; required course for 2Ls).

Focusing on Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code, this course is the study of the sale of goods, including seller's warranties, risk of loss, and remedies. The course also introduces the student to Article 2A (lease of goods) and to the international treaty dealing with the sale of goods.

Taxation of Business Enterprises (8332-01) (3 credit hours).

This course examines federal income tax laws affecting the acquisition, operation, and disposition of business enterprises and assets, with particular attention to the taxation of corporations, shareholders, partnerships and partners.

MEE Wills and Trusts (7335-01) (3 credit hours).

This course examines: intestate succession; the essential elements and formalities for making, revoking, or altering a will; will contests; and the administration of estates. The course also explores the character, creation, validity and use of trusts; types of trusts; rights, duties and liabilities of settlors, trustees, beneficiaries, and third parties; fiduciary administration; settlement and distribution; remedies of beneficiaries; and tax, real property, and future interest considerations, including the rule against perpetuities, in connection with wills and trusts.

**Elective Courses that Satisfy the
PROFESSIONAL SKILLS REQUIREMENT/
ADVANCED PRACTICUM REQUIREMENT**

PSR APR Advanced Legal Research Applied (7278-02) (2 credit hours) (CAP: 20).

This course is designed to provide students with the research skills necessary to tackle advanced legal topic in the practice of law. Topics covered include the use of primary and secondary sources; case law research; statutory law and legislative history research; administrative law research; practice materials; and the effective use of Lexis Advance, Westlaw Next, Casemaker, and other electronic databases. Additionally, students will be presented with an advanced "live-client" research project at the start of the semester and which will culminate in a final research memorandum at the end of the semester. This project will afford students the opportunity to apply their advanced legal research skills. This course fulfills the Professional Skills Requirement for 3Ls and the Advanced Practicum Requirement for 2Ls.

PSR APR Appellate Advocacy (7360-01) (3 credit hours) (CAP: 20).

This course is an in-depth study of the appellate process, including historical and comparative viewpoints; preservation of the record on appeal; post-trial motions; appellate procedure; research and preparation of briefs; argument, including communication theory; administrative appeals; rehearing; and petitions for certiorari.

PSR APR Arbitration (8319-01) (3 credit hours).

This course is a study of the principles and attendant laws governing the arbitration process. Students are given a history of the arbitration process and its current applications. Up-to-date case and statutory law on arbitration are discussed in light of recent developments in the uses of this process to control contract disputes. The course will cover the ramifications of the use of arbitration as a forum choice.

PSR APR Interviewing, Counseling, and Negotiation (7349-01) (3 credit hours).

This course covers the interviewing and counseling of clients, developing and weighing options, and negotiating on behalf of clients. Students are required to take an active part in class exercises and role-plays.

PSR APR Legal Drafting (8316-01) (3 credit hours) (CAP: 20).

This course focuses on developing professional writing skills by working with some of the types of writing done by lawyers in their practices. Class projects vary, but will include discussion and drafting of several types of documents such as a lease and a contract, and other projects.

PSR APR Pretrial Practice (8312-01, 8312-02) (3 credit hours) (CAP: 12 per section).

This is a problem-oriented course focusing on the preparation of a civil case for trial. Topics include initial interview, informal discovery, drafting of pleadings, conduct of formal discovery, motion practice, and preparation of a trial book.

PSR APR Trial Advocacy (7368-02, 7368-04) (3 credit hours) (CAP: 16 per section).

This is a practice-oriented course intended to develop the students' legal skills in the trial setting. The course emphasizes preparation of witnesses, jury selection, opening statements, presentation of evidence, examination of witnesses, and closing arguments.

SEMINARS

that Satisfy the Rigorous Writing Requirement

SEMINAR Advanced Topics in Family Law (2 credit hours) (CAP: 12)

Prerequisite: Family Law. This seminar provides students with an opportunity to do in-depth research into cutting edge topics in Family Law. Each student will choose a topic of interest and write a research paper that satisfies the rigorous writing requirement set forth in Section 2-501. Each student will make a presentation to the group explaining the results of her or his research during the second half of the semester. The professor limits absences and expects full participation from each student.

SEMINAR Freedom of Expression (8262-01) (2 credit hours) (CAP: 12).

This course is a study of the history and theory of the constitutional doctrine of freedom of expression. The study will center on the Speech and Press Clauses of the First Amendment. Subjects to be considered include advocacy of unlawful conduct, symbolic expression, obscenity and pornography, defamation, commercial speech, hate speech, and invasion of privacy.

SEMINAR Law and Bioethics (8270-01) (2 credit hours) (CAP: 12)

This course covers the intersection of topics in medical and biological science ethics and American law. Topics discussed in the class include, but are not limited to the following: end-of-life issues, medical research ethics, organ donation and transplantation issues, genetic ethics, behavior control, and reproduction issues. Class readings and discussion will focus on the tort, contract, property, and constitutional implications of these topics.

CLINICS

That Satisfy the Professional Skills Requirement/Experiential Learning Requirement

PSR ELR Elder Law Clinic (7375-01) (3 credit hours) (CAP: 10 3Ls).

The Elder Law Clinic provides opportunities for law students to represent and counsel low-income, elderly citizens in Montgomery, Autauga, and Elmore counties. Third Year law students counsel and represent clients with diverse legal needs: guardianships, advanced directives for health care, powers of attorney, simple wills, basic estate planning, public benefit applications, appeals from benefit denials, long-term care, elder abuse, and medical decision making. The Elder Law Clinic also provides public information programs on federal and state benefits, long-term care solutions, nursing home and skilled nursing facility standards, age discrimination, elder abuse, grandparental custody, medical decision making, and end-of-life issues. The Elder Law Clinic works in cooperation with the Central Alabama Aging Consortium, Montgomery Area Council on Aging, Brooks-Sellers One Place Family Justice Center, and Legal Services Alabama. Students must be certified as a legal intern (3L card) to participate in the Elder Law

Clinic. Prior to registering for the course, students must have submitted their Application for Registration as a Law Student to the Alabama State Bar. A student may not take more than one clinic in the same semester. A student may not take Elder Law Clinic and a Field Placement in the same semester.

PSR ELR Family Violence Clinic (7372-01) (3 credit hours) (CAP: 10 3Ls).

Operating as an on-site partner of the Brooks-Sellers One Place Family Justice Center, the Family Violence Clinic provides pro bono services for victims of domestic violence. Third Year law students with limited-practice authority will represent clients in court proceedings for Protection from Abuse Orders and related matters and will interview clients, provide advice, prepare pleadings, investigate and evaluate cases. Students must be certified as a legal intern (3L card) to participate in the Family Violence Clinic. Prior to registering for the course, students must have submitted their Application for Registration as a Law Student to the Alabama State Bar. A student may not take more than one clinic in the same semester. A student may not take Family Violence Clinic and a Field Placement in the same semester.

PSR ELR Mediation Clinic (7348-01) (3 credit hours) (CAP: 16).

This is a clinical offering that contains a classroom component as well as “hands on” mediation experiences under the supervision of a faculty member. Students mediate disputes at the Montgomery County District Court and report their experiences during the classroom sessions. The goal of the course is to allow the students to hone their skills as mediators in courtroom settings as well as in the classroom.

FIELD PLACEMENTS

Field Placement Class (8108-01, -03, -05) (1 hour).

Participants in the Field Placement Class supplement their placement fieldwork experience by exploring ethical, professional, and practical issues in a specific arena within the legal profession. Students in similar placements meet weekly to reflect upon and glean lessons from the fieldwork experience, focusing on professional development and the daily realities of law practice. This offering must be taken in conjunction with Field Placement Hours. Consent of the instructor is required to register for this offering. Check with Professor Craft to register for the section corresponding to the type of Field Placement you have.

Field Placement Hours (8229-01, 8309-01) (2 or 3 credit hours).

Participants in the Field Placement Clinic Program work under the supervision of qualified and experienced practicing attorneys and judges who provide guidance and training in professional lawyering skills. Each semester hour of credit for Field Placement Hours requires 60 hours of fieldwork. Thus, students who register for two credits of Field Placement Hours must work at

least 120 hours in their field placement over the course of the semester. This offering must be taken in conjunction with the Field Placement Class, unless the student is permitted by the instructor to omit the classroom component. Consent of the instructor is required to register for this offering.

ADVOCACY TEAMS

Moot Court Competition Team (by instructor selection only).

This offering is for students selected by the Director of Advocacy on one of the Law School's interscholastic moot court teams. Students gain expertise in appellate advocacy as they prepare for the competition by researching legal issues presented and preparing an appellate brief. Students also gain experience for and participating in oral arguments at the competition.

Trial Competition Team (by instructor selection only).

This offering is for students selected for one of the school's trial teams. They gain experience in various aspects of trial work as they prepare for and participate in competition against teams from other law schools.