

MSL Online

Course Descriptions

2018-2019

Northwestern

PRITZKER SCHOOL OF LAW

Master of Science in Law

Fall 1

Legal & Regulatory Process

REGLAW 901-0	Required
Daniel Rodriguez	1.5 credits
<p>This course introduces students to the key elements of the U.S. legal system. We will look at the constitutional structure of government, the sources of lawmaking authority, and the manner in which Congress, the administrative state, and the judiciary collaborate in developing rules of applicable law. Along the way, we will study the judicial and lawmaking system, the regulatory design and implementation process, and, to some degree, mechanisms of dispute resolution. Given the unique focus of the MSL program, we will pay special attention to how the American legal system considers, evaluates, and negotiates matters involving science and technology. Assessments will include weekly quizzes and exercises, as well as a final exam.</p>	

Business Torts

BUSCOM 992-0	Required
Jim Lupo	1.5 credits
<p>In this course we will explore the liabilities businesses face which we will refer to generally as “business torts.” These are assertions of wrongful acts made against business entities and their principals arising out of alleged breaches of legal duties owed versus breaches of contract obligations undertaken. The course will highlight the areas where common law torts overlap with regulatory law. Students will be evaluated based on participation, completion of two “think-piece” written assignments, and a final group project.</p>	

Fall 2

Business Formation & Structure

BUSCOM 901-0	Required
Stephen Reed	1.5 credits
<p>This course covers the law of business organizations, including corporations, limited liability companies and partnerships. We will take a practical approach, focusing on real world aspects of business formation, structure and governance, along with transaction planning. By the end of the course, students will understand basic matters of business associations law, will be able to identify how and when fiduciary duty, business judgment rule and other key corporate law issues arise, and will have a solid foundation for subsequent MSL classes in business and transactional law. Students will be evaluated based on class participation, a midterm written assignment, and a final exam.</p>	

Research in Law, Business, & Technology

LAWSTUDY 950-0	Required
George Pike	1.5 credits
<p>This course will provide students with the necessary tools to conduct basic legal, business, and technology research and evaluate the quality of materials and documents encountered in each discipline. Legal research is a unique skill that involves identifying and assessing relevant cases, statutes, and administrative materials. Business research, meanwhile, focuses on locating company, industry, and consumer market information, as well as examining financial statements and the financial and funding marketplaces. Finally, technology research, particularly in the intellectual property arena, involves identifying owners, licensees, and assignees of intellectual property rights including patents, trademarks and copyrights, as well as identifying and evaluating similar intellectual property concepts and processes, such as research into “prior art” in patent law. The course will explore both commercial database resources and freely accessible Internet-based resources used in each of these fields of research, with special attention paid to the modern trend of utilizing big data and analytics. Assessment will be based on weekly assignments and quizzes, as well as a group final project that will involve both a written work product and an oral presentation.</p>	

Spring 1

Legal & Regulatory Process

REGLAW 901-0	Required
Daniel Rodriguez	1.5 credits
<p>This course introduces students to the key elements of the U.S. legal system. We will look at the constitutional structure of government, the sources of lawmaking authority, and the manner in which Congress, the administrative state, and the judiciary collaborate in developing rules of applicable law. Along the way, we will study the judicial and lawmaking system, the regulatory design and implementation process, and, to some degree, mechanisms of dispute resolution. Given the unique focus of the MSL program, we will pay special attention to how the American legal system considers, evaluates, and negotiates matters involving science and technology. Assessments will include weekly quizzes and exercises, as well as a final exam.</p>	

Contract Law & Design

BUSCOM 902-0	Required
Emerson Tiller	1.5 credits
<p>In most business activities, agreements are formed between and among people and business entities. Successful management, negotiation, and performance of business deals and employment responsibilities depends in part on knowledge of what are the terms of the agreement, what do those terms mean, are they enforceable by law, and what are the financial consequences of not following the terms of the agreement. This course presents the basics of contract law. Through a variety of readings, lectures, discussion posts, and quizzes, students will learn: what is required to form an enforceable contract; how to understand the meaning of contract terms; when must a contract be in writing; when is a contract breached; and what remedies may be sought in court for a breached contract. Students will be evaluated on their participation in group discussions and completion of a final exam.</p>	

Persuasive Communication

LAWSTUDY 956-0	Required
Michelle Falkoff	1.5 credits
<p>This course provides MSL students with an introduction to written persuasive communication. Students will discuss what makes arguments convincing and will improve their persuasive communication skills via writing persuasive papers and engaging in active discussions online on controversial topics. Grades will be based on professionalism, participation, and writing.</p>	

Spring 2

IP Fundamentals

INTPROP 901-0	Required
Peter DiCola	1.5 credits
<p>This course will introduce the laws that create and delimit property rights in intangible goods such as inventions, expressive works, brand identifiers, or information. Collectively, these laws are known as “intellectual property law,” an umbrella term which includes patent law, copyright law, trademark law, trade secret law, among other areas. The course will cover the fundamentals of several specific areas of IP law: the subject matter protected, the threshold requirements for protection, the rights granted to IP owners, the ways of enforcing those rights, and the many exceptions to and limitations on IP protection. The course will emphasize both the commonalities and the contrasts among the various branches of IP. Students will learn about some of the specialized language of IP and the government and private institutions that are practically important in each area. Developing a familiarity with IP fundamentals—getting the lay of the land—is the main goal of the course. An important secondary goal is for students to see how IP law generates both constraints and opportunities from the perspective of business strategy. Assessments will include weekly review questions and exercises, as well as a short paper and final exercise.</p>	

Employment Law

BUSCOM 925-0	Elective
Susan Provenzano	1.5 credits
<p>Employment Law is designed to pick up where other courses leave off. Equipped with strategies for managing intellectual property and business planning, you must consider how it will all work within the employment structure of your enterprise. Whether you plan to start your own business or work within an existing company, you will be faced with legal issues relating to human capital. To that end, this course will start with the legal consequences of how workers are classified, an issue central to running a business, managing others, and knowing your own rights. We will then talk about the risks and opportunities around granting and receiving job security through written contracts and other devices. After that, we will cover questions of utmost importance to workers and employers in the current legal-social-political climate: workplace privacy and employment discrimination. Both areas of law are in flux, and are crucial to risk management on the employer side and legal rights on the employee side. Course assessments will consist of weekly quizzes and exercises, as well as a final examination and capstone assignment in the form of a team presentation.</p>	

Power Week

Ethics

LAWSTUDY 910-0	Required
Mary Foster & Wendy Muchman	1.5 credits
<p>We live in a world where ethical and moral objectives, legal imperatives, and business concerns often collide. This course seeks to strengthen the ability of students to anticipate, analyze and appropriately respond to some of the critical ethical and social challenges that confront professionals in a global economy, with a particular emphasis on the context of science, medical and technology enterprises. Topics for class discussion will include ethical leadership and organizational culture, duties of loyalty, corporate social responsibility, privacy and technology, corruption, and compliance systems. This course will be offered in a blended format, meaning work will be required both before and after the in-person Power Week. Students will be evaluated on participation and the completion of four short papers.</p>	

Negotiation Skills & Strategies

LAWSTUDY 901-0	Elective
Lynn Cohn	1.5 credits
<p>In the Negotiation Skills and Strategies Workshop, students will have the opportunity to understand various approaches to conflict and how to manage difficult issues effectively. From there the Workshop will provide students with a theoretical framework for approaching negotiations in both the deal and the dispute contexts and will provide ample opportunities for putting the skills to practice in simulations. In addition, specific modules on working with lawyers and managing the process, substance and emotional components of a negotiation will be included. This is a highly interactive and fast-paced course.</p>	

Additional Power Week electives (.5 credits) TBD

Summer

Patent Law

INTPROP 905-0	Elective
David Schwartz	1.5 credits
<p>This course provides an introduction to the basic principles of U.S. patent law. We will cover the function of the U.S patent system; subject matter eligible for patenting; the requirements for obtaining a patent; patent entitlements and remedies for patent infringement; and current debates in patent law, including the patentability of software and the problem of non-practicing entities. Course instruction will be conducted through a combination of lectures, including guest lectures from practicing patent attorneys, and exercises designed to simulate problems likely to arise in patent law practice. Students will be evaluated on their participation in course discussions, weekly exercises, and a final exam.</p>	

Corporate Criminal Law

LAWSTUDY 930-0	Elective
Josh Kleinfeld	1.5 credits
<p>Corporate and white collar crime are growth areas in American and European law. Corporations that do business in the United States, even if foreign, can be prosecuted as entities under U.S. law. Individuals can likewise be prosecuted for crimes committed while working for corporations. A large and growing set of U.S. statutes criminalize business-related activities, including offenses committed outside the territory of the United States. And other major economies, like Germany, France, and the United Kingdom, have developed their own approaches to corporate crime, which are very different from the U.S. approach, very different from one another, and rapidly changing. Are these developments just? Are they good for the economy? And as a practical matter, how can a businessperson avoid criminal liability?</p> <p>This course will familiarize legal and business professionals with the burgeoning body of criminal law that bears on their conduct. We will discuss the foundational rules of U.S. corporate criminal law, including entity liability and individual liability. We will discuss the current state of the field, focusing on recent developments in caselaw, internal Department of Justice policy, and major corporate and white-collar statutes. We will discuss non-U.S. jurisdictions' corporate criminal law regimes. We will discuss fundamental policy questions connected to corporate criminal law— questions of both justice and economic productivity. And we will discuss core criminal law principles, including the difference between criminal and civil law, the elements of a criminal offense, conspiracy liability, and complicity liability. The goal is to provide business and STEM professionals with a basic understanding of criminal law principles and familiarize them with the burgeoning body of criminal law that bears on their conduct.</p>	