

SUPPLEMENTAL COURSE INFORMATION – FALL 2016

Law 821R - Advanced Appellate Advocacy (2 Credit Hours) - Susan Elaine McPherson

Advanced Appellate Advocacy is designed to teach students advanced skills for crafting accurate, logical, and persuasive arguments. The students will work to create, review, and break down arguments using the principles examined in the book *Making Your Case* by Justice Antonin Scalia and Bryan A. Garner. In class, the students will work hands-on with their own writing and with real-world examples from practicing attorneys to learn, step-by-step, how to create and break down legal arguments from raw facts and law. The students will also study basic principles of oral argument and will observe and review the oral argument before the Alabama Supreme Court held annually at Samford University.

LAW 798 AML - American Law, Procedure, and Practice: A Course for Third Year Law Students (3 Credit Hours) - Walthall

This course provides third year law students the opportunity to review selected areas of substantive law and civil and criminal procedure that are tested heavily on bar exams. Members of the class will study actual bar review materials on those subjects in the same intensive way in which they will prepare for the actual bar exam. Then they will take practice bar exam tests on the subjects they have studied. The practice tests will follow the multiple choice question format of the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE), the essay question format of the Multistate Essay Exam (MEE), and the essay performance test format of the Multistate Performance Test. Generally these will be exercises developed by one of the bar review providers (or by me or other teachers), but in some cases may actually be questions used by the National Conference of Bar Examiners in actual bar exams in previous years.

Throughout the semester students will self-assess their performance on these exercises, using analyses of and annotations to the exercise which are made available to them (and reporting to me on how they are doing). This is a graded course (rather than pass-fail) and there will be a final assessment, which I will grade, but the weekly self-administered, self-assessed exercises will carry a substantial weight in the final grade. Indeed the skills and knowledge developed in the weekly self-administered, self-assessed exercises should equip students to do well on the final graded assessment.

More importantly, those exercises, coupled with the review of substantive law preceding the exercises, should equip the student to do well on their state's bar exam. This is particularly true of those who take the bar exam in a Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) state, such as Alabama, on "general law" as tested on the UBE (rather than state-specific law). But even for students who plan to take the bar exam in a non-UBE state (such as Florida or Tennessee, which have state-specific essay components but do use the standard MBE multiple choice questions) the course allows them to develop their test taking skills.

Enrollment is restricted to third-year students who receive the instructor's permission after communicating directly with me either in person or via email as to your plans to pass the bar and how this course fits into that plan. Please indicate what state bar exam you plan to take and give me some indication as to how you stand academically so that we can consider together the possible usefulness of this course to you.

My office is Room 210 (just across from the Great Room) and my email is hpwaltha@samford.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

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LAW 708 R - Race and American Law

(2 Credit Hours) - Doris Greene (Wendy)

Race and American Law contemplates the role of the law in creating as well as maintaining race, racial hierarchies, and racial (in)equality. In doing so, the course investigates these realities over the span of centuries--from the founding of the Americas to present day. This course examines oft-discussed issues at the intersection of race and law such as slavery, colonization, immigration, citizenship, nation building, national security, education, employment, marriage, family, and criminal justice as well as less discussed topics. This course is unique in that it also integrates comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives; students explore racial slavery, racial classification, and race relations—beyond the Black-white binary—through a global lens with particular consideration of the Americas and the Caribbean. Accordingly, the experiences of indigenous peoples, Hispanic and/or Latin Americans, Asian Americans, African descendants, and European Americans are discussed alongside multi-racialism and the racialized experience of religious minorities. Students are evaluated upon a number of factors including: class participation; completion of brief response papers; oral presentation of a final paper topic of the student's choice; and completion of a substantive research paper.

LAW 615 01 Real Estate Transactions I

(2 Credit Hours) - Robert McCurley

A course for those who will be practicing lawyers. The course encompasses, deeds, easements, landlord-tenant law, transfers by business entities, land passed by generations through estates and protected persons. A very practical course that will touch on all aspects of real estate practice, loan closings, mortgages foreclosures and redemption. Students will draft documents for conveyancing.

LAW 799-01 Representing Small Business (Fall 2016)

(2 Credit Hours) - Brook Nixon

The goal for this class is to gain an understanding of how you can adequately represent your future small business clients. Many of you will graduate from law school and become either solo practitioners or get hired at small to medium size law-firms. Some of you will get hired at large law firms in Birmingham and around the country. No matter where you practice, however, the bread and butter for many of you will be small business clients. This course is considered a "simulation course" as we will be simulating tasks that you will perform in the future for your small business clients. You will be graded throughout the semester on various drafting projects, writing assignments, and in-class simulations. Business Organizations, 526, is a pre- or co-requisite.

LAW 769 01 Technology for Practice of Law

(1 Credit Hour) - Grace Simms

Course description and objectives: this course is primarily for law students that plan to go solo or practice law within a small firm. The information is beneficial for those in larger law firms as well. Students will leave at the end of the semester with a greater knowledge of how to promote themselves, use technology in a variety of ways, and be more prepared for the practice of law.

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Law 798 The Business of Law – (Pass/Fail) (3 Credit Hours) - Jill E. Evans

The Business of Law is designed to provide students with information and resources relating to the practical aspects of beginning a law practice. It is targeted towards students who are considering opening their own law practice either as a solo practitioner or with others. It complements, but does not overlap, the offerings in the current Law Office Practice and Management. As contemplated, the course does not include a doctrinal law component, although some aspects of doctrinal law in relevant areas (e.g. information and material on considerations attendant to leasing office space would likely touch on various substantive law aspects of landlord-tenant law and obligations etc) may be incorporated into the course modules.

The course will cover a broad range of topics such as assessing financial options, malpractice insurance, employee hiring and benefits, selecting office space and equipment, lease negotiations, existing and emerging technology and its impact on efficient law office management, different integrated practice management software to effectively handle many tasks (such as legal calendaring, contact management, case management, document handling, document production etc) as well the questions and considerations that should be asked of vendors or consultants before licensing or purchasing technology. Technology resources for legal research beyond the traditional Westlaw/Lexis options and how they compare will be explored as well as useful form repositories and document libraries. This course also will look at the importance of proper accounting, effective marketing practices, building brand awareness, image development, dog-and-pony shows, and recognizing networking opportunities. Marketing and promotion geared towards business development is a key component of this course. The course will also examine what selection criteria is utilized by different types of clients in choosing a lawyer, fee structures and billing, and client expectations once a lawyer is retained. Poor client service practices and attendant ripple consequences will be explored. Topics may be modified or expanded in the process.

Students registering for this class are advised that this course does not fall within the traditional law school class framework. Rather the course is designed to draw upon the experience and expertise of area lawyers, clients, vendors and other resources to give students a diverse array of input on the various issues and challenges a new practice faces and how to best position themselves for success (assuming of course their stellar legal services). Accordingly the course is expected to make extensive use of outside speakers (and in-house resources generously willing to give of their time) and occasionally scheduling accommodations may be required. Grading is based on student projects and class participation. Students may also be required to complete short exercises related to various topics. This class is Pass/Fail.