To: All 2L and 3L JD students and all LLM students

Re: Mini-seminar series, Fall 2019

Once again, we will be offering upper-class mini-seminars both this fall and winter. As detailed below, they will meet with different frequencies and focus on different areas of substantive interest. Some of them will meet exclusively in the fall, some exclusively in the winter, and some will straddle both the fall and winter terms. There will be refreshments provided at all mini-seminars. All of the mini-seminars listed below will count for one academic credit and will be graded on a mandatory pass/fail basis. For mini-seminars which meet at professors’ homes, addresses will be provided to students admitted to the mini-seminars. The mini-seminar offerings that will meet in the fall or will start in the fall and continue into the winter are as follows:

**FALL 2019 MINI-SEMINARS**

**LAW 885 / 001 – Professor Elizabeth Warren**

**Instructors:** John Pottow  
**Offered:** Fall 2019  
**Credit:** 1  
**Enrollment Cap:** 10

**Meeting Information**

- **Dates:** Six or seven of the following Tuesdays: 9/24, 10/1, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12 and 11/19  
- **Time:** 7:00-9:00 PM  
- **Location:** Professor Pottow's home (about 1.5 miles from the Law School)

**Description**

Before she ran for president, Senator Warren was a respected if at times controversial legal academic. This mini-seminar will examine some of the seminal works of the scholar in reading group format, searching for hints of what was to come. Her transformative co-authoring experiences may also be explored.

**LAW 885 / 002 – AI & the Law: Science Fiction and Science Fact**

**Instructor:** Nicholson Price  
**Offered:** Fall 2019  
**Credit:** 1  
**Enrollment Cap:** 10

**Meeting Information**

- **Dates:** Tuesdays: 9/24, 10/1, 10/22, 10/29, 11/12 and 12/3  
- **Time:** 6:30-8:30 PM  
- **Location:** Professor Price's home (about 1.5 miles from the Law School)
In this mini-seminar, we’ll explore how the law deals with artificial intelligence in three different contexts: autonomous weapons (“killer robots”), autonomous vehicles, and predictive policing. For each topic, we’ll spend one session focusing on the current state of the technology and how the law is dealing with it now (or trying to); we’ll spend a second session using science fiction centered on the technology to ask how the law should deal with the technology’s evolution in the future.

**LAW 885 / 003 – The Israel-Palestine Conflict: A Dead End for International Law?**

**Instructor:** Steven Ratner  
**Offered:** Fall 2019  
**Credit:** 1  
**Enrollment Cap:** 11

**Meeting Information**

- **Dates:** 9/25 (Wed.), 10/10 (Thurs.), 10/23 (Wed.), 11/5 (Tues.), 11/20 (Wed.), and 12/4 (Wed.)  
- **Time:** 7:00-9:00 PM  
- **Location:** Professor Ratner’s home (about two miles from the Law School)

**Description**

The decades-long “peace process” to produce a comprehensive settlement to the Israel-Palestine conflict now seems dead or at least in a prolonged state of suspended animation. The underlying claims of the two protagonists have not fundamentally changed during this period, even as new developments—including U.S. foreign policy changes, shifts in Israel’s relations with Arab states, and the BDS movement—create new pressures on one side or the other. Both Israelis and Palestinians ground many of their arguments in international law, and lawyers have played a key role in public debate and negotiations over this issue. The mini-seminar will explore whether international law helps our understanding of this conflict or points the way toward (or away from) certain solutions. Topics to be discussed include the creation of the state of Israel, the West Bank settlements and the separation barrier, the status of Jerusalem, the Palestinian claim for a right of return, one vs. two-state solutions, and the BDS movement. Some familiarity with the conflict and international law is highly recommended.
LAW 885 / 004 – The Life of a People’s Lawyer: Using the Law to Advance the Public Interest

Instructor: Michael Steinberg
Offered: Fall 2019
Credit: 1
Enrollment Cap: 12

Meeting Information

Dates: Monday 11/4 and Wednesdays: 9/25, 10/9, 10/23, 11/13 and 12/4
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Location: Professor Steinberg’s home (about two miles from the Law School)

Description

Students will have the opportunity to learn what it is like to be a people’s lawyer by meeting with top attorneys in Michigan who advance social justice on a wide array of issues. Potential types of practice to be discussed are: ACLU Impact Litigation, Immigrant Rights, Racial Justice, Environmental Justice, Protecting the Rights of the Poor/Legal Aid, Reproductive Rights, LGBT Rights, Criminal Justice Reform, Voting Rights, Public Defense, Prisoner Rights, Defending Rights of Protesters, and Advancing the Public Interest in Private Practice. During the first class, students will help determine the topics to be addressed throughout the course. Relevant readings will be assigned prior to each class to stimulate discussion.

FULL YEAR 2019-20 MINI-SEMINARS


Instructor: Vic Khanna
Offered: Full Year 2019-20
Credit: 1
Enrollment Cap: 12

Meeting Information

Dates: Tuesdays: 10/1, 10/22, 11/19, 1/28, 2/18 and 3/17
Time: 6:40-8:40 PM
Location: 1025 LSJH

Description

This mini-seminar examines the role of the law and legal issues in the two largest entertainment industries in the world—Hollywood and Bollywood—and how they are shaping the development of a global entertainment/media industry, which is one the fastest growing sectors the world over. We begin with a brief overview of Hollywood and Bollywood and may view some Bollywood movies to enrich our understanding of the industry. We then examine some issues raised by the increasing interaction between these two industries. Topics include:
(i) issues of financing movies and the use of Initial Public Offerings to fund individual movies in Bollywood,
(ii) distribution channels for the films (domestically and globally) and the global impact of both industries,
(iii) issues of copyright law as both industries borrow ideas, expressions and music from each other while fusing them as well,
(iv) joint venture contracts (and other contractual issues) between these industries and large scale investments in both directions (e.g., the recent investment by an Indian firm of over US$800 Million in Dreamworks; production of “Bollywood-style” movies by Western Entertainment companies for release in India; joint distribution set-ups; exchange of talent (actors, musicians, and so forth)),
(v) the rise of streaming services (e.g., Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime) relying on Bollywood talent and targeted to Indian audiences, and
(vi) the impact of “corporatization” on the human services section of the entertainment/media industry in India.

LAW 885 / 006 – The Supreme Court’s OT 2019 Term

Instructors: Leah Litman
Offered: Full Year 2019-20
Credit: 1
Enrollment Cap: 10

Meeting Information

Dates: Mondays: 10/7, 11/18 and 12/2
       Tuesdays: 1/21, 2/25 and 3/31
Time:  5:00-7:00 PM
Location: Professor Litman’s home (about two miles from the Law School)

Description

The Supreme Court will have seven argument sessions during its OT 2019 term. We will meet six times over the year to discuss all but one of the sessions. At each mini-seminar session, we will focus on 2 or 3 of the Court’s cases, read the main briefs in the cases, and discuss the different strategies and merits of the arguments. When possible, we will also discuss the oral arguments in the cases. I’ll pick the cases we will cover during our first two sessions and then solicit input about the cases we discuss for the remainder of the term. And good news: The Court reduced the word limit on its briefs, so you’ll have less to read than you would have in prior years!
LAW 885 / 007 – Law, Legal Work, and Transcendence

Instructor: Gabriel Rauterberg
Offered: Full Year 2019-20
Credit: 1
Enrollment Cap: 12

Meeting Information
Dates: Six or seven of the following Mondays: 10/7, 11/4, 11/18, 1/27, 2/10, 2/24 and 3/16
Time: 6:30-8:30 PM
Location: Professor Rauterberg’s home (about one mile from the Law School)

Description
Practicing law is demanding in a way that can pose threats to a lawyer’s ability to flourish in the other dimensions of human life, including family, intimate relationships, health, and spirituality. This mini-seminar will explore these various dangers—a lack of work-life balance, self-compartmentalization, and more—and possible responses to them using academic articles, but primarily art works, from literary fiction to film. The mini-seminar will take seriously the distinctive burdens on individual ethics and identity of the profession of law, but will not be confined to narrowly legal questions.

LAW 885 / 008 – Beyond Trump: What Happens After 2020 (or 2024)

Instructors: David Uhlmann
Offered: Full Year 2019-20
Credit: 1
Enrollment Cap: 10

Meeting Information
Dates: Thursdays: 10/3, 11/7, 12/5, 1/23, 2/20 and 3/26
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM
Location: Professor Uhlmann’s home (about 1.5 miles from the Law School)

Description
The Trump years have been among the most turbulent in American history with more to come depending upon what happens in the 2020 election. But at some point, the Trump era will end, which raises questions about what follows. Are our politics changed forever or will we return to a pre-2016 vision of our democracy or develop a new model for the 21st century? What happens to our leadership role in the world on global challenges like climate change, refugees, and human rights? How do we restore fealty to the truth and the rule of law, move away from vitriol, and come together again as a Nation?
Instructor: Beth Wilensky
Offered: Full Year 2019-20
Credit: 1
Enrollment Cap: 12

**Meeting Information**

Dates: Wednesday 10/16 and Tuesdays: 11/12, 12/3, 1/21, 2/25 and 3/24
Time: 7:30-9:30 PM
Location: Professor Wilensky’s home (about two miles from the Law School). Dinner will be served.

**Description**

In this mini-seminar, we will read and discuss books about Detroit. We will start by reading “Arc of Justice.” After that, we will decide as a group which books we will read, with the objective of including fiction and non-fiction, some books that have a legal angle and some that don’t, and writing from a diverse array of writers (or at least as diverse an array as we can reasonably cover with just six books). Students in the mini-seminar must commit to (1) reading each selection and coming to each meeting ready to discuss it and (2) working, with another student, to prepare and lead the discussion for one book.

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION:**

1. Interested students will use the Law School’s Class Bidding system to bid for mini-seminars. Class Bidding will open on the *first day of classes* to accept mini-seminar bids. To access Class Bidding, go to [https://www.law.umich.edu/classbidding](https://www.law.umich.edu/classbidding).

2. Students may list up to nine (9) mini-seminars in order of preference. There are almost always fewer seats in mini-seminars than there are students who seek to fill them. **Therefore, if you are enrolled in a mini-seminar, you are expected to attend each session. Please do not sign up if you cannot make this commitment. Failure to attend even one mini-seminar session may result in your not receiving credit. If you drop a mini-seminar after you enroll, you may be precluded from enrolling in mini-seminars in future terms.**

3. Seats for mini-seminars are assigned randomly, except that students who have previously been enrolled in an upper-class mini-seminar are not considered for seats until after students who have never been enrolled in an upper-class mini-seminar. Proximity to graduation is not taken into account. That means a first-term 2L and a first-term LLM have the same chance of getting into a mini-seminar as a second-term 3L.

4. Unlike in the usual Class Bidding registration process for regular fall and winter term classes, during mini-seminar registration we place a higher priority on making sure that each mini-seminar gets filled than on making sure students get the mini-seminars they want most. Therefore, although your preferences will be taken into account, it is
quite possible that you will be assigned a mini-seminar that is low on your list of choices. So, please list only those mini-seminars that you are absolutely certain you are willing to take.

5. No “prof picks” (please do not contact the professor about getting in).

6. Students who have been given permission to exceed the maximum credit load and who are currently already carrying 17 credits this semester are not eligible to enroll for a mini-seminar, since the rules of our accrediting agency (the ABA) prohibit such a student from enrolling in more than 17 credits in a single semester.

7. Students who will be graduating this December (mostly sixth-term summer starters) are only eligible to enroll for fall term mini-seminars (885/001, 885/002, 885/003, and 885/004).

Timing and Deadlines

Mini-seminar registration begins Tuesday, September 3. You must submit your requests in Class Bidding by Friday, September 6 at 5:00 PM. Assignment results will be available in Class Bidding on Tuesday, September 10. An announcement will be made on MLaw Live when results are ready to view in Class Bidding. Class permissions will be entered into Wolverine Access for students to enroll themselves in their assigned mini-seminar. Selected students will receive an automated “Class Permission” email prompting them to enroll. Students must enroll in Wolverine Access before the drop/add period ends on Wednesday, September 11 or forfeit their mini-seminar assignment.

Coming Attractions

In the winter term, the following professors will be offering upper-class mini-seminars. Registration for these mini-seminars will not take place until January. If the professors have given us a description, we have included it, along with the title, below:

**WINTER 2020 (UPPER CLASS) MINI-SEMINARS**

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<td>Instructor: Elizabeth Campbell</td>
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**Description**

There have been rapid and significant changes in immigration policy and practice over the last three years including the treatment of refugee and asylum seekers, workplace raids, family separation at the border, and a myriad of complex and less publicized practices. The justification for many of these changes is an assertion that we have been experiencing an immigration crisis. In this mini-seminar we will explore if there is an immigration crisis, and
if so, what are the origins and impacts of it. We will discuss how the population of undocumented immigrants grew to 11 million, the advantages and disadvantages of Executive-branch courts, the legality of these changes, and the proposed reforms to the immigration system.

### Being Happy
**Instructor:** Margaret Hannon  
**Offered:** Winter 2020

**Description**
This mini-seminar will have a broad focus on law student and lawyer happiness and well-being, with likely topics including:

- choosing to go to law school and to practice law and how those choices are compatible (or not) with happiness and well-being;
- cultivating a growth mindset;
- mental well-being in law school and in the legal profession;
- the relationship between career choices and law student and lawyer happiness;
- how imposter syndrome impacts law school and practice experiences; and
- the pressure to be busy and the causes of burnout, and how to prevent burnout.

### Forgiveness and Mercy
**Instructor:** Scott Hershovitz  
**Offered:** Winter 2020

**Description**
Forthcoming

### Harry Potter, Due Process and Wrongful Convictions
**Instructor:** Imran Syed  
**Offered:** Winter 2020

**Description**
There is no due process in Harry Potter. This isn't a problem, because that world is fictional (I'm pretty sure). But since JK Rowling is the world's most widely-read living author, and her Harry Potter books were read by virtually all of you now in law school, her rather curious depiction of criminal justice is somewhat relevant. This mini-seminar considers due process and the justice system in Rowling's magical world and also in her more recent detective series, which explores the same themes in our own world. We will read and discuss selections from both series, along with selections that establish context on real-world wrongful convictions. Our conversations on Rowling's portrayals of the accused, due process, law enforcement and criminal justice will be accompanied by Potter and/or English-themed foods.