To: All 3L, 2L, and 1L summer starter JD students and all LLM students

Re: Upper-class mini-seminar series, Winter 2018

Each year, the Law School offers mini-seminars aimed at giving students and faculty the opportunity to enjoy discussions about the law in a relaxed and informal setting. As detailed below, each mini-seminar focuses on a different area of substantive interest. There will be refreshments provided at all mini-seminars. All 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. Four mini-seminars will be offered this winter.

WINTER 2018 (UPPER-CLASS) MINI-SEMINARS

LAW 885 / 001 – #Employment Law: Employment Law and Social Media

Instructor: Margaret Hannon
Offered: Winter 2018
Credit: 1
Enrollment Cap: 11

Meeting Information

Dates: Wednesday 3/14 and Thursdays: 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22 and 3/22
Time: 6:30-8:30 PM
Location: Professor Hannon’s home (about one mile from the Law School)

Description

This mini-seminar will focus on social media in the context of employment law. Our discussion topics will include when and how social media can be used in pre-hiring background checks; whether employers should monitor employees’ social media posts and what policies employers should have for use of social media by employees; under what circumstances social media activity can be used as grounds for employee termination or discipline; when an employer may be liable for employees’ social media posts; how to determine whether social media content authored by an employee belongs to the employee or the employer; and when and how social media can ethically be used by attorneys in the course of employment-related litigation.

LAW 885 / 002 – Clones, Climate, and Computers: Science Fiction and the Law

Instructor: Nicholson Price
Offered: Winter 2018
Credit: 1
Enrollment Cap: 10

Meeting Information

Dates: Tuesdays: 1/30, 2/6, 2/20, 3/20, 4/3 and 4/17
Time: 6:30-8:30 PM
Location:  Professor Price's home (about 1.5 miles from the Law School)

Description

What does the idea of human cloning teach us about family law? How will water law cope with catastrophic climate change? How should we regulate artificial intelligence used to predict crime—and should we regulate it differently when it predicts illness? This course considers how science fiction can help us think about contemporary and near-term issues in the law. Course materials will include texts from science fiction, both written and visual.

LAW 885 / 003 – The Israel-Palestine Conflict: Does International Law Matter at All?

Instructor:  Steven Ratner
Offered:  Winter 2018
Credit:  1
Enrollment Cap:  11

Meeting Information

Dates:  Tuesdays: 1/30, 2/13, 3/6, 3/20, 4/3 and 4/17
Time:  7:00-9:00 PM
Location:  Professor Ratner's home (about two miles from the Law School)

Description

A lasting settlement to the seventy-year long conflict between Israel, on the one hand, and the Palestinians and Arab states, on the other, seems as elusive as ever. Lawyers have played a key role in public debate and negotiations over this issue, as the legal aspects are extraordinarily important to understanding the claims and grievances of the parties and the possibilities of a final peace. In this mini-seminar, we will explore whether international law helps our understanding of this conflict by examining six issues: Zionism and the creation of the State of Israel; the Six Day War and the status of the Occupied Palestinian Territories; the Israeli regime of occupation of the West Bank and Gaza (including the Separation Barrier); the recent wars in Gaza; the right of return for Palestinians; and the status of Jerusalem. No background in the conflict or international law is required.

LAW 885 / 004 – Documentary Work, Youth and the Law

Instructor:  Frank Vandervort
Offered:  Winter 2018
Credit:  1
Enrollment Cap:  10

Meeting Information

Time:  5:00-7:00 PM
Location:  Professor Vandervort’s home (about ten miles from the Law School)
Documentary has been defined as “the ‘artistic representation of actuality.’” Documentary work may take any of numerous forms (including non-fiction writing, film, photography, painting or poetry). In this mini-seminar, we will sample several of these genres as applied to children and youth in the legal system. Looking from the perspectives of artists such as writers, filmmakers, and photographers we can learn how other perceptive persons view the legal system’s impact on young people. For each session, we will view a film, read a book or article, or engage with documentary works of photography or poetry. We will critically evaluate each documentary work’s approach to its subject matter—is it balanced and objective? What is the documentarian’s point of view? Can the documentary work properly be called propaganda? How do we as readers or viewers shape the message the documentarian seeks to convey? Finally, we will consider how the work’s artistic rendering, enhance or detract from the message the documentary work seeks to convey.

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.

2. Students may list up to four (4) 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 have been enrolled, 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 matriculated prior to May 2015 who have been given permission to exceed the maximum credit load and who are currently already carrying 16 credits this semester are not eligible to enroll for a mini-seminar, since the rules of our
accréditante (l'ABA) interdit à un étudiant de prendre plus de 16 crédits en un seul semestre.

7. De même, les étudiants qui se sont inscrits en mai 2015 ou après qui ont été autorisés à dépasser le maximum de crédits et qui sont actuellement en portant 17 crédits ce semestre ne sont pas éligibles à s'inscrire à un mini-séminaire, car les règles de notre accréditante (l'ABA) interdisent à un étudiant de prendre plus de 17 crédits en un seul semestre.

**Timing and Deadlines**

Le processus d'inscription au mini-séminaire commence mercredi, 10 janvier. Vous devez soumettre vos demandes dans Class Bidding le lundi, 15 janvier à 17h00. Résultats de l'attribution seront disponibles dans Class Bidding le mercredi, 17 janvier. Un avis sera fait sur MLaw Live lorsque les résultats sont prêts à être vus dans Class Bidding. Les permissions des classes seront entrées dans Wolverine Access pour que les étudiants puissent s'inscrire à leur séminaire attribué. Les étudiants sélectionnés recevront un courriel automatique demandant leur inscription. Les étudiants doivent s'inscrire dans Wolverine Access avant la fin des dates de suppression/ajout le jeudi, 18 janvier ou perdre leur inscription au mini-séminaire.