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

Re: Upper-class mini-seminar series, Winter 2020

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 upper-class 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. Five mini-seminars will be offered this winter.

WINTER 2020 (UPPER-CLASS) MINI-SEMINARS

**LAW 885 / 001 – Fake News? Beyond the Headlines of the Immigration Crisis**

  - **Instructor:** Elizabeth Campbell
  - **Offered:** Winter 2020
  - **Credit:** 1
  - **Enrollment Cap:** 10

**Meeting Information**

  - **Dates:** Thursdays: 2/6, 2/20, 3/12, 3/26, 4/2 and 4/16
  - **Time:** 7:00-9:00 PM
  - **Location:** Professor Campbell’s home (about 2½ miles from the Law School)

**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.

**LAW 885 / 002 – Being Happy**

  - **Instructor:** Margaret Hannon
  - **Offered:** Winter 2020
  - **Credit:** 1
  - **Enrollment Cap:** 10

**Meeting Information**

  - **Dates:** Thursdays: 2/6, 2/13, 2/27, 3/26, 4/2 and 4/9
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM  
Location: Professor Hannon’s home (about one mile from the Law School)

**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.

### LAW 885 / 003 – Forgiveness and Mercy

**Instructor:** Scott Hershovitz  
**Offered:** Winter 2020  
**Credit:** 1  
**Enrollment Cap:** 10

**Meeting Information**

- **Dates:** Mondays: 2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/9, 3/16, and 3/23  
- **Time:** 6:30-8:30 PM  
- **Location:** Professor Hershovitz’s home (about one mile from the Law School)

**Description**

Who (if anyone) should we hate? Resent? Hold in contempt? When (if ever) should we forgive? And just what is forgiveness, anyway? These are some of the questions that we’ll explore in this mini-seminar. We’ll read some classic work in philosophy about forgiveness, resentment, and punishment. We’ll think about the place of forgiveness and mercy in a legal system. And we’ll consider what to do when you are the person who needs forgiveness.

### LAW 885 / 004 – Harry Potter, Due Process and Wrongful Convictions

**Instructor:** Imran Syed  
**Offered:** Winter 2020  
**Credit:** 1  
**Enrollment Cap:** 10

**Meeting Information**

- **Dates:** Wednesdays: 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/11, 3/18 and 4/1  
- **Time:** 6:45-8:45 PM  
- **Location:** Professor Syed’s home (20-25 minute drive from the Law School)
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.

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 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 in 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.
Timing and Deadlines

Mini-seminar registration begins Wednesday, January 15. You must submit your requests in Class Bidding by Monday, January 20 at 5:00 PM. Assignment results will be available in Class Bidding on Wednesday, January 22. 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 Thursday, January 23 or forfeit their mini-seminar assignment.