

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

Re: Mini-seminar series, Fall 2020

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. All of the mini-seminars listed below (**except** for Professor Sommers' offering in the fall term) will count for one academic credit and will be graded on a mandatory pass/fail basis. 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 2020 MINI-SEMINARS

LAW 885 / 001 – Crisis in American Democracy

Instructor: Kate Andrias

Offered: Fall 2020

Credit: 1

Enrollment Cap: 10

Meeting Information

Dates: Six of the following Mondays: 9/21, 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9 and 11/16

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Location: REMOTE

Description

Our democracy is in crisis. Institutions of government are increasingly dysfunctional. Economic inequality is at record levels. Racism, white supremacy, and nativism persist, and are even resurgent. Political polarization is soaring. And the President is attempting to exercise unprecedented forms of executive power. This mini-seminar will examine how these features of the American political economy have produced a crisis in democracy, and how law has contributed to the problems. Our readings will include recent books on the crisis in American democracy, including Suzanne Mettler & Robert Lieberman, *Four Threats: The Recurring Crises of American Democracy*, and Jacob Hacker & Paul Pierson, *Let Them Eat Tweets*, as well contemporary journalism, including excerpts from the *NYT* 1619 project, podcasts, films, and legal writing. We will also examine ongoing legal developments relating to the 2020 election and we will hear from lawyers working to protect democracy. Students will be asked to co-lead one of the discussions.

LAW 885 / 002 – Health Justice and Systemic Inequality

Instructor: Sam Bagenstos

Offered: Fall 2020

Credit: 1

Enrollment Cap: 12

Meeting Information

Dates: Tuesdays: 9/15, 9/22, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20 and 11/10

Time: 6:15-8:15 PM

Location: REMOTE

Description

Although the COVID-19 pandemic was often, in its early days, described as a “great equalizer,” it has in fact revealed and compounded massive health and environmental inequalities along race, gender, disability, and class lines. This mini-seminar will use the inequalities attendant to the pandemic as a jumping-off point to discuss the broader topic of health justice. We will discuss, among other topics: the impact of both the virus and the measures adopted to mitigate it on particularly vulnerable classes of workers; the connection between the harms attendant to the pandemic and longstanding patterns of inequity (including residential segregation based on race, gendered divisions of labor, and systemic discrimination against racial minorities, women, and disabled people in the health system); and the prospects, causes, and consequences of rationing life-saving care. We will also broaden the lens beyond the current pandemic to consider the implications of our discussions for other pressing environmental and health justice controversies. With the magic of Zoom, the professor will attempt to arrange a number of interesting guest speakers.

LAW 885 / 003 – Digital Learning, Digital Lawyering

Instructor: Patrick Barry

Offered: Fall 2020

Credit: 1

Enrollment Cap: 12

Meeting Information

Dates: Fridays: 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13 and 11/20

Time: 1:10-3:10 PM

Location: REMOTE

Description

For the foreseeable future, a lot of learning and lawyering will involve digital tools. This mini-seminar gives you a chance to play around with some of the latest ones and perhaps even develop a few we can use here at Michigan Law.

LAW 885 / 004 – Pandemics and Law in Science Fiction

Instructor: Nicholson Price

Offered: Fall 2020

Credit: 1

Enrollment Cap: 12

Meeting Information

Dates: Wednesdays: 9/23, 9/30, 10/14, 10/28, 11/11 and 11/18

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Location: REMOTE

Description

This mini-seminar will consider how the law can, does, and should respond to pandemics, as explored in science fiction (novels, films, and short stories). Topics will include public health interventions, the development of vaccines and therapeutics, and the allocation of medical treatments.

LAW 885 / 005 – Strangers to Ourselves

Instructor: Roseanna Sommers

Offered: Fall 2020

Credit: No

Enrollment Cap: 10

Meeting Information

Dates: Mondays: 9/21, 10/12 and 11/16

Time: 7:30-9:30 PM

Location: REMOTE

Description

There is often a gap between what we think we'd do in a given situation and what we actually do in reality. This mini-seminar will take a look at these gaps, which social scientists have been studying for decades. Questions we address may include some of the following: Why do so few people defy orders from corrupt authorities? Why don't people report inappropriate behavior when they witness it? Why does hardly anyone think they would confess to a crime they didn't commit, when innocent people frequently give false confessions? Together, we will explore the social science behind these gaps between perception and reality, and ask what implications they carry for the law. Seminar discussion will be co-led by special guest Professor Gabe Mendlow.

FULL YEAR 2020-21 MINI-SEMINARS

LAW 885 / 006 – Lawyering While Female

Instructor: Bridgette Carr

Offered: Full Year 2020-21

Credit: 1

Enrollment Cap: 12

Meeting Information

Dates: Thursdays: 10/8, 10/22, 11/12, 2/4, 2/25 and 3/11

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Location: REMOTE

Description

The 2020 ABA Profile of the Legal Profession presents a dismal picture for female lawyers. Roughly half of all law school graduates have been female since 2000, but the number of women in senior leadership roles at U.S. law firms is far less than half. At U.S. law firms women’s pay lags far behind pay for men in similar positions. Sadly, this gap grows wider the further up the corporate ladder women go, and it is even more dramatic for women of color in the field. Not surprisingly female lawyers are less satisfied with their jobs than men. In this mini-seminar we will discuss why this occurs and connect with female lawyers across the country to learn how they overcame these realities to succeed in life and the law.

LAW 885 / 007 – Racism, Colonialism, and the United Nations

Instructors: Kristina Daugirdas and Susan Page

Offered: Full Year 2020-21

Credit: 1

Enrollment Cap: 12

Meeting Information

Dates: Tuesdays: 9/29, 10/27, 11/17, 2/9, 3/16 and 4/13

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Location: REMOTE

Description

This mini-seminar will explore the ways that racism and colonialism have shaped the aspirations, founding, and operations of the United Nations—and the ways that the United Nations succeeds and fails in confronting racism and moving beyond colonialism. Readings will include a mix of history, biography and memoirs, and primary sources. We’ll read about apartheid and efforts to combat it at the United Nations; about Ralph Bunche, an African-American UN diplomat who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950; and about contemporary efforts by activists and governments to use the Human Rights Council to condemn racism.

LAW 885 / 008 – Business Development for Associates

Instructor: Robert Hirshon

Offered: Full Year 2020-21

Credit: 1

Enrollment Cap: 12

Meeting Information

Dates: Tuesdays: 9/22, 10/20, 11/17, 1/19, 2/16 and 3/16

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Location: REMOTE

Description

Ever wonder why some brilliant associates do not “make partner,” while others do? Or why some non-equity partners never become equity partners? Increasingly it’s all about your “book” or “expected book” of business. This mini-seminar will discuss the importance of demonstrating an aptitude for developing business in your law firm. We will discuss some of the following subjects: building client relationships, active listening, creating message triangles (elevator speeches). I will also invite senior members of the Bar to discuss their approaches to business development and what they are telling associates in their firms. Additionally, I will assist each student in developing an individual marketing plan (IMP) which seminar participants can use in their firms as summers or first year associates. Students who took LAW 655 Business Development for Associates (practice simulation) are ineligible to take this mini-seminar.

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 eight (8) 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. Dropping a full-year mini-seminar in the winter term will result in a “W” (withdrawal) grade.**
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. If you are assigned to a mini-seminar, you will have an opportunity to modify your schedule accordingly in order to enroll before the Drop/Add period ends.

Timing and Deadlines

Mini-seminar registration begins Monday, August 31. **You must submit your requests in Class Bidding by Wednesday, September 2 at 5:00 PM.** Assignment results will be available in Class Bidding on Friday, September 4. 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 Tuesday, September 8 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 2021 (UPPER CLASS) MINI-SEMINARS

Cannabis Law and Social Justice

Instructor: Howard Bromberg and Mark Osbeck

Offered: Winter 2021

Description

Forthcoming

**Tort, Crime and Punishment: A Short Visual History of Legal Process
from the Norman Conquest to *Game of Thrones***

Instructor: David Guenther

Offered: Winter 2021

Description

This mini-seminar will examine the historical shift from tort law to criminal law that occurred with the growth of centralized state power and the rise of the prison as a legal institution. We will read some primary and secondary texts but will focus largely on the rich visual history—paintings, prints, monuments and sculptures, and illustrated legal codes, not to mention scenes from *Game of Thrones*—pictorializing, but also questioning, the changing legal processes and punishments, and the changing understanding of the administration and meaning of justice, from the period after the Norman conquest, with its trial by combat and ordeal, to the capital punishments of eighteenth-century “gallows London” and the deportation of convicts to Australia around 1800, and ultimately the establishment of modern prisons. Guest participant: Prof. Achim Timmermann from the U-M Art History Department.

Loveable Crooks, Despicable Lawyers

Instructor: Don Herzog

Offered: Winter 2021

Description

There is a centuries-old tradition of celebrating criminals and vilifying lawyers. We’ll read fiction and nonfiction stretching from seventeenth-century England to today’s United States and try to sort out who the good guys are—and just what it might mean to be a good guy.

Clerking: The Nuts and Bolts

Instructor: Kerry Kornblatt and Jessica Lefort

Offered: Winter 2021

Description

Forthcoming

The US Soccer Women’s National Team Equal Pay Dispute

Instructor: Timothy Pinto

Offered: Winter 2021

Credit: 1

Enrollment Cap: 12

Description

We will do a deep dive into the documents, arguments, legal strategies, and media strategies related to the ongoing dispute between US Soccer and the women’s national team union regarding the union’s Equal Pay Act claim. Professor Pinto is the former general counsel of US Soccer and thus has insights about the relationship between the parties. For students who took Sports Law in the Winter 2020 term, some of this material will be

duplicative of what was covered in class, but this seminar will provide the opportunity to look at and discuss the issue in a much more detailed way. Forthcoming

Leadership Bootcamp

Instructor: Tifani Sadek and Vivek Sankaran

Offered: Winter 2021

Description

Forthcoming

Race, Gender, and American Incarceration

Instructor: Margo Schlanger

Offered: Winter 2021

Description

Forthcoming