

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

Re: Upper-class mini-seminar series, Winter 2021

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. All the upper-class mini-seminars listed below will count for one academic credit and will be graded on a mandatory pass/fail basis. Seven mini-seminars will be offered this winter.

WINTER 2021 (UPPER CLASS) MINI-SEMINARS

LAW 885 / 001 – Cannabis Law and Social Justice

Instructors: Howard Bromberg and Mark Osbeck

Offered: Winter 2021

Credit: 1

Enrollment Cap: 12

Meeting Information

Dates: Tuesdays: 2/9, 2/23, 3/9, 3/23, 3/30 and 4/13

Time: 7-9 p.m. ET

Location: REMOTE

Description

This seminar will explore the social justice implications of America's 50-year "war on drugs," with a particular emphasis on cannabis law. The disproportionate impact on Black and other POC communities has led to calls for redress, which are reflected in several cannabis legalization bills. The seminar will review the current state of cannabis law. It will examine such topics as expungement of criminal records and reparations to minority communities, use of marijuana laws to stifle free speech and protest movements, and to impose collateral consequences on minority communities, such as voter disenfranchisement. Proposals to allow greater participation by the disadvantaged in the burgeoning legal cannabis economy will also be discussed.

LAW 885 / 002 – 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

Credit: 1

Enrollment Cap: 12

Meeting Information

Dates: Thursdays: 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11 and 3/25

Time: 4-6 p.m. ET

Location: REMOTE

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.

LAW 885 / 003 – Loveable Crooks, Despicable Lawyers

Instructor: Don Herzog

Offered: Winter 2021

Credit: 1

Enrollment Cap: 11

Meeting Information

Dates: Mondays: 2/1, 2/15, 3/1, 3/15, 3/29 and 4/12

Time: 7:30-9:30 p.m. ET

Location: REMOTE

Description

History and literature are chock full of crooks we’re invited to admire, even adore, and lawyers we’re invited to despise. We’ll examine some cases of each and try to sort out some enticing puzzles. Among them: People have hated lawyers for a long time. Are they justified?

LAW 885 / 004 – Clerking: The Nuts and Bolts

Instructors: Kerry Kornblatt and Jessica Lefort

Offered: Winter 2021

Credit: 1

Enrollment Cap: 12

Meeting Information

Dates: Thursdays: 3/4, 3/11, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8 and 4/15

Time: 7-9 p.m. ET

Location: REMOTE

Description

As the name implies, this mini-seminar will introduce students to both the basics and the details of clerking, with the goal of guiding students to be effective judicial clerks from the very first day. Students will be introduced to clerkships at all levels. We will cover differences between types of clerkships, how to navigate relationships in chambers, how to

manage your caseload and your time, how to disagree with your judge and edit chambers work, and how to navigate ethical issues. Several sessions will include judges and career clerks as guest speakers.

LAW 885 / 005 – The US Soccer Women’s National Team Equal Pay Dispute

Instructor: Timothy Pinto

Offered: Winter 2021

Credit: 1

Enrollment Cap: 12

Meeting Information

Dates: Wednesdays: 2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/24, 3/31 and 4/7

Time: 7-9 p.m. ET

Location: REMOTE

Description

We will do a deep dive into the documents, arguments, motivations, 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.

LAW 885 / 006 – Lawyers as Leaders: Exploring the Qualities of Effective Leadership

Instructors: Tifani Sadek and Vivek Sankaran

Offered: Winter 2021

Credit: 1

Enrollment Cap: 12

Meeting Information

Dates: Tuesdays: 2/9, 2/23, 3/9, 3/23 and 4/6; and Monday 4/19

Time: 7-9 p.m. ET

Location: REMOTE

Description

Whether serving your organization at the top as general counsel or managing partner or in the middle as the lead attorney on a case or a deal, you will likely find yourself in a professional leadership position someday. When the time comes, will you lead well? As a Michigan Law student, you have the intelligence, ambition, and analytical capability to be a great leader, but other leadership qualities and skills must be developed. After all, great leaders are made, not born. In this mini-seminar, we will explore what it means to be an effective leader by reading and discussing Brene Brown’s bestselling book *“Dare to Lead”* and working through case studies and online leadership simulations borrowed from top business schools.

LAW 885 / 007 – Race, Gender, and American Incarceration

Instructor: Margo Schlanger

Offered: Winter 2021

Credit: 1

Enrollment Cap: 12

Meeting Information

Dates: Wednesdays: 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/7 and 4/14

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m. ET

Location: REMOTE

Description

Race and gender profoundly influence who goes to jail and prison and their experience there. We'll read and discuss experiential accounts, scholarship, and caselaw addressing the issues. You can take this mini-seminar even if you've also taken any other law school classes related to the subject matter.

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 seven (7) 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.
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 Tuesday, January 19. **You must submit your requests in Class Bidding by Friday, January 22 at 5 p.m. ET.** Assignment results will be available in Class Bidding on Wednesday, January 23. An announcement will be made on MLaw Live when results are ready to view in Class Bidding. Class permissions (electronic overrides) 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, January 27 or forfeit their mini-seminar assignment.**