

# SUMMER 2021 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## TURBO

### LAW OF TREATIES

This course is designed to give students an introductory working knowledge of the law of treaties. It focuses on a significant aspect of public international law: the rules governing the negotiation, adoption, implementation and termination of treaties. The course introduces students to important concepts for successfully practicing international law. The course is also relevant to those that want to concentrate their legal career on “municipal” law, as certain aspects of national law, such as the environment, energy, human rights, family relations, and commercial transactions, are increasingly reflecting the domestic application of international conventions. Pertinent constitutional provisions and principles will also be highlighted. This course will examine contemporary issues in treaty law through the lens of treaties pertaining to such specific areas as humanitarian intervention, arms control and investment. Students are expected to acquire problem-solving and negotiation skills.

### TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to the Civil Rights Act is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in federally funded education programs and activities. This course is designed to provide training to support persons who aim to serve as a Title IX Advisor under the Sexual Misconduct Policy. This course introduces students to Title IX fundamentals, role of the advisor, allegations covered, hearing process and live cross examination- theory and practice.

## REGULAR SUMMER

### ADVANCED LEGAL WRITING (GREEN)

This course is a two-credit advanced writing course designed to provide students with numerous opportunities to improve their legal analysis and critical writing skills.

### ADVANCED LEGAL ANALYSIS (ANGA)

The overall goal of the course is to ensure students have a firm grasp of legal writing, with a focus on writing an application. The primary goal of this course is to build on the written lawyering concepts and skills learned and practiced during the student’s tenure at law school.

This class will enable you to better hone your legal analysis skills. The class is divided into two parts. The first half (eight class days) will be dedicated to essay writing. The goal is to teach how to structure an application in essay format. The eighth class will be used to administer an essay exam. The second half of the semester will be dedicated to writing legal documents. The sixteenth class will be used to administer an MPT Exam. The MPT exam will either be a memorandum or client letter.

### **ADVANCED TRIAL PRACTICE**

This course will address litigation techniques in much more depth, permitting students to hone skills learned in the basic Trial Simulation course, as well as to learn new ones. Topics will include pre-trial preparation techniques and pre-trial motions; witness interviewing and witness preparation skills; advanced voir dire techniques; use of litigation technology; identifying and making objections; examining expert witnesses; and ethical issues facing trial attorneys.

### **BUSINESS PLANNING**

This course is designed to expose students to the advising of small business enterprises. An understanding of the various planning and counseling techniques is the primary objective of the course. As a first step, the course will outline the various types of business enterprises and present the student with general considerations for choosing between a corporation and a partnership. These considerations include business, financial, tax, and other factors. Further, the tax factors are given in-depth treatment. Second, the course will consider the issues of enterprise valuation, allocation of managerial control, design of the capital structure, and the tax incidents of a proposed corporation within the context of a business problem. Third, the course will focus upon the business planning associated with the continuing enterprise. The issues in this area include issuance of new securities, stock dividend distributions, revaluation of assets, reduction of capital to create surplus, along with the attendant tax aspects of the continuing enterprise. Finally, the course will consider the corporate and tax aspects incidental to the dissolution of a corporation. This problem will explore the various methods by which a corporation may be dissolved, the rights of creditors, the recognition and non-recognition of income, and the tax incidents to the shareholders of the liquidated corporation.

### **CIVIL EXTERNSHIP**

This course is specifically designed for students who have secured civil externships with various law firms and agencies that primarily focus on civil practice and civil litigation. Civil litigation is the process in which civil matters are resolved in a court of law. Civil matters can be described as situations dealing with relationships between people, such as a marriage, or a contract dispute between corporations. Rather than a case being a person versus the government, as in a criminal

matter, civil cases are an individual or business filing suit against another individual or business. The goal of this course is to familiarize students with the three phases of litigation: pre-trial, trial and post-trial. We will explore the complexities of civil litigation through trial advocacy and practice. Thus, the role of this course is to prepare each student to become civil advocates and to provide support as the student completes the externship for the semester.

## **CREDITORS' RIGHTS**

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the law of creditors' rights in chapter 7, 13, and 11 bankruptcy cases. Students will work through the United States Bankruptcy Code, the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, analyze case law, and discuss actual case issues/scenarios. Students will also have the opportunity to hear live court hearings in the United States Court for the Southern District of Texas.

## **EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION**

The course is an introductory employment discrimination law course. The course will cover topics such as at will employment, Title VII discrimination (national origin, race, color, religion, sex), including pregnancy discrimination and sexual orientation discrimination, age discrimination, and disability discrimination.

## **FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING FOR LAWYERS**

Financial accounting for lawyers is an introductory course designed to provide law students with a fundamental understanding of basic financial accounting principles, collection and measurement of accounting information, preparation and interpretation of the basic financial statements -- such as the income statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement, statement of changes in owners' equity -- and the use of these accounting information in making decisions in every day law practice, regardless of the area of legal specialization.

## **HEALTH LAW**

This course provides a general introduction to health law, policy, politics, and economics. Topics will include, among others, access to healthcare, patients' rights, the meaning and effect of "managed care," the relationship of healthcare to public health and selected issues in bioethics. Treatment of these issues in foreign healthcare systems will be analyzed to provide perspective on domestic issues.

## **INDEPENDENT RESEARCH I & II**

This course provides an opportunity for students to engage in supervised research leading to a substantial independent research paper. In addition to performing legal research, an important

goal of this course is to improve students' writing skills and written argumentation. The course will involve the development of a research topic and plan of research, development of a working outline of the project, submission of an initial draft, and submission of a final draft. The focus of the course is for students to engage in the careful, extensive treatment of a particular topic and to engage in original research and writing performed independently by the student. Successful completion of this course satisfies TMSL's writing requirement.

## **INNOCENCE PROJECT**

The Innocence Project Practice and Clinic is designed to provide overview of the law related to wrongful convictions, including the why they happen, how to prevent them, and how to litigate a postconviction claim. In addition to the seminar component, the course provides hands-on experience investigating and litigating real innocence cases through the clinical component of the course. Students will participate in real investigations of criminal cases and get experience related to the progression of a case through the criminal justice system from arrest to post conviction litigation.

## **JUDICIAL EXTERNSHIP**

The Judicial Externship Program allows students to earn academic credit four hours in the summer and six hours in the fall and in the spring for working with judges in state or federal trial or appellate courts. The primary purpose of these placements is to translate academic legal education into practical adjudicative decision making, thus helping students understand how the courts work and how attorneys, judges and litigants succeed and fail in the process. By virtue of the variety of work in their placements, judicial externs also improve their skills in research, writing, observation and oral communication.

## **LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT**

This course's principal objective is to facilitate your transition from the theory of the classroom to the realities of law practice. In this class you will participate as a member of a fictional law firm. While managing the activities of this firm, you will also learn about and take part in discussions regarding legal practice from four topical areas: business management, practice management, client management, and personal life management.

Under business management, we will cover start-up considerations such as choice of entity, ancillary business arrangements, cost determinations, pricing of legal services, and marketing. Under practice management, we will discuss systems that ensure an attorney's quality performance, provide for efficiency, and facilitate an attorney's obligation to keep track of client matters. Under client management, we will learn the procedures and ethical considerations for client acceptance and declination and explore methods for client retention and case plan

development. Under personal life management, we will discuss quality of life issues such as back-up plans for emergencies, death, and disability, and balancing work and personal life.

## **MOCK TRIAL**

The Mock Trial course is an introductory look into the intricacies of competitive mock trial. The course combines principles from Evidence and Trial Simulation courses, with advocacy nuisances commonly associated with scholastic competition.

## **SEMINAR IN TAXATION: TAX CONTROVERSIES**

By the conclusion of this course, students should understand and be able to recognize the progression of a tax controversy matter from the filing (or non-filing) of a tax return to the final appeal to the Supreme Court. Students should be able to effectively navigate post-trial procedures and collection actions. Students should be able to distinguish between administrative processes and legal procedures controlled by the Court systems. Students should be able to identify proper responses to IRS and/or third-party requests and be familiar with any time constraints associated with those communications. Students will be equipped with the information to properly navigate a tax controversy and understand each involved entity and its role in the process.