

EXPERIMENTAL COURSES

2025 – 2026

Civil Litigation, Law, and Practice: This course is designed to develop the skills necessary to become a civil litigator, whether you want to ultimately practice in a large, mid-size, or boutique law firm, your own law firm, or as in-house counsel. Instruction will focus on becoming a complete lawyer, counselor, and advocate. Students will be taught how to handle a civil litigation case from beginning to end, which will include subjects such as developing an overall litigation strategy and plan; client interviews and investigation; initial pleadings and responses; written discovery; party and fact witness depositions; expert discovery; dispositive motions; mediation and settlement; trial preparation and motions *in limine*; jury selection; and post-trial motions. To assist students in developing their oral advocacy and written persuasion skills, there will also be a project that will include drafting a motion and presenting an oral argument on the motion. Guest co-lecturers will include prominent and distinguished practitioners from the plaintiff and defense bar, who will share their important perspectives on effective litigation strategy and techniques.

Diversity and Inclusion: This course is designed to educate students about the social and economic benefits derived from diversity and inclusion and to give students a working familiarity with fundamental aspects of diversity and inclusion efforts in professional settings. Topics covered include the historical demand for diversity and inclusion, understanding and recognizing implicit bias, cultural competence, how diversity and inclusion efforts dovetail with equal employment opportunity laws, methods for building and retaining a diverse workforce, and tools that attorneys can use to forward diversity and inclusion efforts at various organizations. This culminates in the writing of plans and presentations in which students must thoughtfully develop a plan towards rectifying and eliminating racism and bias in the legal profession.

Editing, Advocacy, and AI: Good editors don't just see the sentence that was written. They see the sentence that might have been written. They know how to spot words that shouldn't be included and summon up ones that haven't yet appeared. Their value comes not just from preventing mistakes but from discovering new ways to improve a piece of writing's style, structure, and overall impact.

This course will teach you how to be one of those editors. You'll edit briefs. You'll edit contracts. You'll edit all kinds of legal documents. Sometimes this editing will be done with the help of artificial intelligence tools. Sometimes it will be done entirely on your own. But always the goal will be the same: learn and practice a skill that is fundamental to becoming an excellent advocate

Human Rights and the Rule of Law in the Developing World: This class is largely based on Gary's book entitled "The Locust Effect". This text dives into the reality of injustice in impoverished areas of our world and how the law tangibly impacts a person's ability to climb out of poverty. Along with daily lectures, the class will also have interactive discussions on various case studies dissecting local and international laws that help or hinder these cases. You will leave the course with a new vision for the foundational necessity of law and law enforcement for the protection of vulnerable people in our world, along with an ability to research local and international laws for human rights abuses in various countries around the world.

Judicial Writing and Advocacy: This is a two-day intensive course designed to afford students a familiarity with the work performed by judicial law clerks, interns, and externs and help them develop the legal-writing and critical-analysis skills required to effectively assist judges in the neutral decision-making process—whether as a clerk, extern, or practicing litigator. With a heavy focus on advanced legal writing, class sessions will consist of lecture, class-wide discussion, review of grammar and mechanics rules, peer review of drafts, and professor-facilitated

small-group discussions. There will be in-class work, plus writing and editing assignments to be completed outside of class. Students will be expected to draft and edit a judicial order resolving a litigation motion on short deadlines. Students will also be assigned chapters from Bryan Garner's *The Redbook* as outside reading to be discussed in class.

Limits of Judicial Power: This class explores the federal judiciary's place within our system of separated powers. It starts with the Constitution, Federalist 78, *Marbury v. Madison*, and Lincoln's First Inaugural. At times we will look at specific legal doctrines, including *stare decisis*, standing, qualified immunity, nationwide injunctions, political questions, and severability. At other times, we'll look at more general legal topics like originalism, departmentalism, court packing, and the Supreme Court's emergency docket. The common theme will be the limits of federal courts: What should federal judges have the power to do, what should they not be allowed to do, and why?

Race and the Law: This course examines how and why race, racism, racial preferences, and racial biases inform and shape our legal structures and impact the legal decision-making process, and explores the possibilities of transforming the law to more adequately fulfill the promise of equal protection. The course explores different views of what race means, what constitutes racism, and the historical and legal background of major racial groups in the United States. The course also focuses on the application of the equal protection doctrine across groups, in areas such as education, employment, housing, voting rights, freedom of expression, popular culture, and crime.

Religious Liberty Clinic: This clinic will enroll 6-8 students in a seminar-style class that will include active, supervised practice in cases protecting religious liberties rights. Students in the clinic will explore enduring questions relating to how civil governments treat the religious beliefs, expressions, and institutions of their citizens and residents and will receive practical, firsthand experience with religious liberties litigation and support the provision of high-quality legal services to clients in religious liberties litigation. Applications are processed the semester before.

Wrongful Conviction Appellate Clinic: The Clinic offers a select group of 6–8 students the opportunity to work directly on appellate matters involving claims of wrongful conviction. The course introduces students to the legal doctrines and systemic factors that produce unjust outcomes while simultaneously placing them on supervised case teams. Students may prepare amicus briefs, assist in drafting appellate filings, and collaborate with partner law firms engaged in innocence and post-conviction work. Applications are submitted the semester prior to participation.