**MASTER IN LAW COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**American Constitutional Law (Gerhardt) LAW 505-301 – offered Fall and Spring:**

This course is designed to introduce non-lawyers to American constitutional law. It covers basic concepts in constitutional law; the challenges in interpreting the Constitution; the most popular theories for interpreting the Constitution; many landmark cases in constitutional law; and some current controversies in constitutional law. The course requires significant class participation, along with a final examination. Some of the topics covered include foundations for judicial review, separation of powers, equal protection and a six-week review of fundamental rights including, due process, right to choose, first amendment, and religion. The final class will involve a role play exercise, such as a mock confirmation for a Supreme Court Justice.

**Corporate Compliance: Policy and Practice LAW 522-301 – offered in Spring**

This course will teach the importance of corporate compliance in America and how to create and maintain an effective corporate compliance program. In the corporate world, an important mechanism for protecting a company’s reputation begins with the implementation of an effective compliance program. The legal and ethical issues compliance officers face often arise in the context of everyday matters. Learning how to address these challenges and finding practical solutions are indispensable skills for anyone working in this field. This course will discuss issues facing many types of business organizations and how effective governance, culture and compliance programs can impact a corporation’s success – or failure. Students will learn the fundamentals of creating and implementing a solid compliance program and why this is vital. Students will also be introduced to the major compliance issues that arise in different industries. Those who wish to work in compliance, those who work or are looking to work in heavily regulated industries, such as finance and healthcare, as well as others will benefit from this class which blends the fundamentals of compliance with the practical aspects of compliance in today's corporate America. Class sessions will be supplemented by guest speakers, compliance ‘issues of day,’ and current compliance topics of interest including Anti-corruption, Cyber Security and Conflicts of Interest.

**Fundamentals of U.S. Legal Research LAW 536-301 – offered in the Fall - Online**

This online class teaches students the key documents of the American Legal System, how to find and use these documents both in traditional legal research databases like Lexis and Westlaw as well as in the many free websites available on the internet. The class will also discuss secondary sources like periodical literature and legal treatises that assist in understanding and interpreting laws, court opinions, and administrative regulations. Students will learn how to use all of these sources in academic projects like seminar papers as well as in student’s everyday professional lives and will learn how to employ strategies to enable them to carry out their research in an efficient and effective manner. The course is designed for students in the Master of Laws program as well as other non-JD students who want a thorough understanding of U.S. legal research methods.
Introduction to U.S. Law and Legal Methods LAW511-011 – offered Fall, Spring and Summer:

This course is designed to be an introduction to the US legal system and practice of law in the US through an examination of some of the most significant areas of law including constitutional principles, civil procedure, contracts, torts, property, criminal law and professional ethics. The course begins with an introduction to the U.S. judicial system and discusses how to read cases and the use of precedent. The focus will be on law, legal institutions and legal process as elements of the rule of law in a democratic, market-oriented society. In each section of the course, our goal is to understand the role of the law as a social, economic and political force in the life of the United States through case analysis and Socratic Method.

Introduction to General Business Law LAW528-301 – offered Fall and Spring:

This survey course introduces non-law students to the fundamentals of US business and corporate law. The course begins by examining the law surrounding contracts, which are the building blocks of any business transaction. We will cover contract formation, key clauses, enforceability, and dispute resolution along with a discussion of the various aspects of business organizations. Course topics are introduced through a combination of case analysis, Socratic Method and real world insight from guest lecturers. By the end of this course students should be in a position not only to recognize these legal issues but also better able to evaluate any offered advice. This course requires class participation along with a final examination.

Introduction to Health Law LAW530-301 – offered Fall semester only:

This course is a survey course intended to provide students with an overview of the structure, financing and regulation of the U.S. health care system. This course will examine the federal government programs for financing the delivery of health care, namely Medicare and Medicaid, and will consider the tension between controlling costs and promoting quality, while assuring access. This course will focus on how health care laws and regulations impact various stakeholders, such as health care facilities, individual health care providers, and patients. Topics for selective study include health care reimbursement, the Affordable Care Act, fraud and abuse, privacy, technology, licensing, liability, and compliance.

Introduction to Technology Law and Ethics LAW506-301 – offered Fall semester only:

This course is designed to introduce the key legal principles that technology professionals need to know, presenting them from the bottom-up the way a practicing technologist would experience them. Major topics will include the impact of potential liability on product design, differences when life-critical systems are involved, proper and improper uses of intellectual property, privacy regulation, permissible constraints imposed by nondisclosure agreements and employment relationships, and the entrepreneurship-related aspects of technology law. Each class will feature a case study, where the legal and ethical issues surrounding the current subjects will be explored in class through discussion questions and Socratic dialogue. The course requires four writing assignments and a final examination.
Introduction to Patent Law LAW576-301 - fully online, offered in Spring

Knowledge of the patent law can be a tremendous advantage for engineers, doctors, entrepreneurs, and other professionals who regularly interact with the U.S. patent system. This online course taught by Professor Polk Wagner, an expert in patent law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, takes a broad look at U.S. patent law, from the enforcement of patents to the interpretation of patent claims.

In this course, students will:
- Gain a better understanding of the policy principles and structure underlying the US patent system;
- Learn how to read and interpret patent documents, better preparing them to interact with patent lawyers and representatives;
- Become familiar with the text and legal interpretation of modern patent statutes;
- Analyze legal decisions similar to ones they will encounter in their professional careers;
- Learn what it takes to get a valid patent for an invention or technology;
- Learn how entrepreneurs can enforce patents — or avoid infringing them;
- Determine damages in cases where patents are violated.

The first half of the course begins with an overview of the patent system and its underlying theories, then moves on to the legal standards applied to patents. The second half of the course then delves into the enforcement of patent rights, including the interpretation of patent claims, the defenses against a patent, and the calculation of damages.

Navigating the Regulatory State: Law, Science and Policy LAW529-301:

This course will equip students to understand how legal, policy, institutional, and analytic considerations inform the design, scope, stringency, transparency, and enforcement of regulations. In covering administrative law, the goal is to emphasize how regulatory agencies in the United States try to exercise discretion found in authorizing legislation to reduce risks efficiently, and ensure markets freely operate, all with an eye on important distributional concerns. Major themes in the course will include: (1) how the regulatory state is structured (issues of jurisdiction, delegation and pre-emption); (2) the quasi legislative, judicial, and executive functions many agencies play; (3) the internal processes of agencies; (4) how the outputs of regulatory agencies are controlled; (5) how agencies enforce mandates; and (6) how different regulatory designs attempt to balance the often-conflicting goals of efficiency, equity, simplicity, and flexibility. Students will read and discuss various landmark court cases affecting regulatory outcomes, along with legal, policy and scientific articles on regulation. This course includes a final examination.