

COLLOQUIUM
SPRING 2009

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND SYLLABUS

I. Basic Premise

The idea for the colloquium is inspired by the New York University model, although there are differences between this course offering and those at NYU. The basic premise of this colloquium is student-centered. It reflects an attempt to create, to use NYU's description of its comparable course-offerings, a "cooperative enterprise" regarding scholarship where students and teachers work collaboratively in a rigorous intellectual environment. Students benefit from being exposed to scholarly analytic treatment and discussion of a subject in ways that few other, if any, law school classes can provide. The colloquium also affords students an opportunity to study the law of many different fields and to be at the cutting edge of its evolution. For the faculty participants, the opportunity to present and defend their work before a core group of talented students who have read carefully and thoughtfully in advance offers an occasion for a thorough examination of their presented work.

II. Structure of Course

The colloquium brings together law faculty members from different schools around the country. A small group of students are eligible to take the course for credit and each week meet to discuss a substantially completed work-in-progress. Prior to the class meeting, students are required to read the completed work or draft and come prepared to discuss, analyze, comment upon and critique the paper which the faculty member will present at the colloquium. Each week, enrolled students write papers of 4-5 pages in length commenting on the author's work. Those papers are then given to the guest faculty participants at the end of the class. Others (including the rest of the UHLC faculty, and others in the UHLC community) are welcome to join the weekly discussion.

This year's presenters are all quite impressive and their papers address some very exciting topics. All will be speaking on litigation-related subjects.

III. Class Size, Student Requirements and Grading

The three credit hour course is limited to twenty students. It meets once a week on Thursdays, from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room. We will also meet, as needed, for one other hour during the week (at a time TBD). To satisfy the course requirements, in addition to reading the papers and coming to class prepared to discuss them, students are required to write commentaries of four to five pages in length addressing each presented paper. Student papers are due prior to the presentation by the guest faculty speakers. Papers must discuss the thesis of the presented scholarship, critically analyze whether its author succeeds in his/her objectives and raise any questions that the student thinks are relevant. Class participation counts for one third of the total grade; the written memoranda are worth the other two thirds. The class does not satisfy the UHLC's seminar writing requirement.

IV. Spring 2009 Presenters

Specific paper topics, and the accompanying papers, will be posted when received.

Jan 22	Larry Ribstein (Illinois)
Jan 29	Brooke Coleman (Stanford)
Feb 5	Arthur Hellman (Pittsburgh)
Feb 12	Robert Bone (Boston University/Univ. of Texas)
Feb 19	Radha Pathak (Whittier)
Feb 26	Chris Brummer (Vanderbilt)
March 5	NO CLASS
March 12	Francis McGovern (Duke)
March 26	Elizabeth Thornburg (SMU)
March 26	Scott Moss (Colorado)
April 2	Scott Dodson (Univ. of Arkansas/Duke University)
April 9	Howard Erichson (Fordham)