

Bridge 2025

Draft - subject to change

Subject	Catalog Number	Title	Description	Credits	Instructor
LAW	682LEC	AI & Law	AI and the Law will provide an overview of artificial intelligence (AI) and examine the legal, ethical, and regulatory challenges posed by the development and use of AI. Students will explore the impact of AI across various industries and legal areas, including its impact on litigation, commercial transactions, intellectual property, data privacy, and employment law. The course will cover the current and emerging regulatory frameworks surrounding AI technologies and analyze the legal responsibilities of AI developers, users, and regulators. Ethical considerations, such as bias in AI algorithms and accountability, will also be addressed. Students will engage in discussions about the role of lawyers in guiding policy and shaping the legal future of AI.	1	Marinaccio, Richard
LAW	733LEC	Drug Testing Pro Sports	This one-credit course will consist of intensive research into the history and development of drug testing in the four major professional sports leagues. Class discussion and readings will focus upon the intricacies of implementing drug testing in a collective bargaining context. The rationale behind union and league perspectives on various methods of drug testing will be examined, as well as the political ramifications of each. The role of specialized federal legislation also will be investigated and analyzed. Each student will research and prepare a paper on a topic of individual interest in this area, subject to the instructor's approval.	1	Drew, Helen A. Coyles, Jonathan
LAW	863LEC	Advanced Constitutional Law	This 2-credit course meets for eight (8) three-hour classes on Tuesday and Thursdays during the January term, with an in depth focus on and legal analysis of three Supreme Court Cases: Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission, Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, and Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard. These decisions and their aftermath are said to not only jeopardize the civil rights of United States citizens but to threaten our democracy. If so, how so? These questions form the basis of this courses inquiry. Students will have a choice to write a 25-page research paper or to re-write a judicial decision of these cases (majority, concurring or dissent decision) or related cases and issues. NOTE: THIS COURSE COUNTS AS ONLY TWO (2) OUT OF THREE (3) CREDITS FOR THE CON LAW II REQUIREMENT. STUDENTS WILL NEED TO TAKE AN ADDITIONAL ONE CREDIT COURSE TO FULFILL THEIR CON LAW 2 REQUIREMENT.	2	Mutua, Athena D.
LAW	905LEC	Equitable Distribution	Equitable Distribution Under New York State Domestic Relations Law will provide those in attendance an introduction to New York's Domestic Relations Law 236B as it relates to the division of marital property. We will cover the statute and explore the nuances as well as complex concepts in connection with the identification, classification, valuation, and distribution of property acquired during the marriage for those involved in a matrimonial action commenced in this state. Attendees will receive instruction from Paul A. Vance, Esq., who has been practicing exclusively in this area for the last 38 years.	1	Vance, Paul A.
LAW	915LEC	Mental Health & Well-Being	Being a law student and a lawyer present significant and unique mental well-being and mental health challenges. This course will explore the causes of high rates of stress, anxiety, and depression in the legal profession and what can be done about it by individuals and organizations. This class will be taught by Dan Lukasik, a trial lawyer for over 30 years, who has lived with and managed his depression and anxiety for the past twenty years. Dan has given over 200 presentations on mental health in the law throughout the U.S., including Harvard and Yale law schools. He is the creator of the website Lawyers With Depression and a member of the National and New York State Task Forces on Lawyer Well-Being.	1	Lukasik, Daniel T
LAW	923LEC	Contr Negot & Arbit Prof Spr	This will be a hands-on experience in the legal and practical skills necessary to negotiate and arbitrate a professional sports employment contract. The class will be divided into two-person teams representing management and players. Each team will research, prepare and actively negotiate and arbitrate a professional athlete's contract.	1	Drew, Helen A. Costa, Shanelya, Paul

LAW	928LEC	Commercial Litigation	This course explores the options, tactics, and procedures for commercial transactions which turned adversarial. We follow the subject equipment from purchase order, contract and delivery through malfunction, dispute, and litigation. Working from a record from an actual action (plus miscellaneous samples), we apply Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code to pleading, discovery, motion and appellate practice. EACH STUDENT WILL CONDUCT AND DEFEND MOCK DEPOSITIONS AND APPELLATE ARGUMENT AS WELL AS DRAFT DISCOVERY DEMANDS AND PROPOSED DECISIONS. The goal: crafting practical skills through real world case study.	2	Savino, William
LAW	931LEC	Fundamentals of Practice	The objective for this class is to teach students the skills, traits, and ethics essential to be a successful lawyer, who will impress the partners and employers they work for after law school. This course will give students the tools to (1) understand the intricacies of a law practice (including, but not limited to, law firms), (2) learn how to produce excellent work product, (3) bill efficiently and honestly, (4) own their cases or matters, and (5) rise to the top. Students will gain insight on what works and what does not work for law clerks and associates from lawyers with experience in firms of all sizes, the court system, and as in-house counsel.	1	Scharf, Jennifer R
LAW	937LEC	Business Immigration Law	Taking a practical approach to U.S. business immigration law and practice, this course will cover immigration issues of concern to U.S. employers and employees. Students will learn of the fundamental principles and defining concepts of the various temporary and permanent visa categories permitting employment, with a strong focus on cross-border immigration between the U.S. and Canada from the perspective of a local WNY practitioner. Lessons and discussion topics will include: employment options for foreign students studying in the U.S.; the controversial H-1B visa category for specialty occupations; employment under NAFTA and treaty-based immigration options for investors and traders; and the multiple ways to obtain a green card through an employer.	1	Behm, Jennifer C
LAW	936LEC	When the Victim is a Child	Crimes against children pose unique challenges for criminal and civil legal systems. Shame, fear, and developmental capacity all contribute to delayed, confusing and gradual disclosure of victimization by children. Scientific knowledge has progressed recognizing that trauma has a significant impact on memory and other brain functions. Cultural attitudes and societal norms evolve and change, affecting the response to allegations. Significant legal changes, as recent as New York's 2024 "Rape is Rape Act", address statutes of limitations, competency, and other issues affecting legal access for child victims of crime. This course will examine the effects of traumatic experiences on children and issues affecting children's access to legal responses from a theoretical, practical, and ethical perspective. It will also address the potential impact on the advocate. The course includes sensitive material including sexual violence which may be disturbing.	1	Tucker, Ann Marie
LAW	938LEC	Trial of Death Pnlty Case	This course will be an introduction to a death penalty trial. The course will be based upon a hypothetical case using the Federal procedures. This will be used for learning the death penalty process from the commission of the homicide through the end of the trial. Pretrial preparation, investigation, critical decisions of the prosecution and the defense, grand jury proceedings, pretrial motions, pretrial procedures, tactics, and the bifurcated trials of guilt and sentencing will be analyzed. The special development of sentencing mitigation evidence, the use of experts, the differences between regular criminal trials and capital cases, such as jury selection and the penalty phase of the trial, will be examined. Each student will do a mock jury selection. The final exam will be the delivery of a closing argument for the penalty phase of the trial. Each student will select either a prosecution or defense closing argument.	1	Easton, William T

			<p>This course will take a deep dive into the legal and policy issues in higher education that have dominated the headlines over the past year.</p> <p>Co-taught by President Barack Obama’s former Secretary of Education and current SUNY Chancellor, John King, SUNY Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs and General Counsel Kapil Longani, and Chief Deputy Counsel and Chief of Staff to the General Counsel, Bess Chiu, this course will challenge students to think about the ramifications of a rapidly changing higher education landscape.</p> <p>Starting with the Supreme Court’s decision in SFFA v. Harvard/UNC, which overturned decades of precedent – and specifically, race conscious admissions – the class will discuss how this decision may affect scholarships, recruiting, and aspects of higher education that allow for preferences based on race or sex. The class will then turn to addressing the legal effects of the aftermath of the October 7th attack in Israel, and specifically, how campuses are attempting to strike the appropriate balance between robust free expression, federal civil rights compliance, and ensuring that students are able to pursue their educational goals in a harassment free environment. Finally, the course will conclude by discussing the policy and legal implications of the Biden Administration’s revised Title IX rules, the subsequent injunctions, and how these rules have fundamentally reordered the historic purpose behind this law.</p>		
LAW	992LEC	Higher Education Law	A make-up class for MLK day (1/20) will be held on 1/24.	1	Longani, Kapil Chiu, Bess
LAW	995LEC	Direct & Cross-Exam: Crim	<p>The purpose of this course is to prepare participants to effectively utilize expert witnesses in criminal cases. In today’s litigation, this is the era of the expert witness. The trial of many criminal cases are dominated by the opinions of experts to an extent never before seen in the judicial system. Virtually all cases that go to trial today involve the testimony of expert witnesses. It is therefore critical that trial lawyers know how to use expert witnesses effectively and how to cross-examine their opponent’s experts. In many ways, the techniques and tactics of examining expert witnesses are the same as those for other witnesses. In other ways, they can be quite different. This bridge course will explore the law and tactics of expert witnesses, as well as review how to examine ordinary lay witnesses.</p>	1	Kubiak, Fonda Dawn

updated 12/2/2024