MEMO TO: All 2L and 3L J.D. Students
FROM: Ron Wright, Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
DATE: 20 March 2015; rev. 24 March 2015
SUBJECT: Elective Courses to Spotlight for Fall 2015 Registration

Registration for the Fall 2015 semester approaches! You already received a working draft of the class schedule and a memo that summarizes the degree requirements for J.D. students. This memo directs your attention to some noteworthy elective courses.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY ELECTIVES

The class schedule next semester includes a number of new elective courses, along with some familiar courses with special features. We are very excited about all of our courses, but I fear that you will overlook some of the electives that have not developed a reputation yet. You can find a description of these electives, along with more familiar courses, online at http://www.law.wfu.edu/academics/courses.

Decedents’ Estates and Trusts 306. This course has traditionally been offered only for 4 credits. Beginning this semester, I have asked the faculty to authorize a version of this course for 3 credits, much as other U.S. law schools offer. The faculty’s decision is still pending. Professor Steve Garland will teach the course, both in the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 semesters.

Corporate Counsel Seminar 451. This course is a joint venture of Professor Omari Simmons and practicing attorney James Dinnage. You can view Professor Dinnage’s web profile at http://www.eckertseamans.com/directory.aspx?View=Detail&DirectoryID=951. The course will cover topics regarding the special environment of in-house legal counsel for corporate entities. Guest speakers from the corporate world will appear via video link for some class sessions. Here is a description of the course from Professor Simmons:

The aim of this course is to provide an understanding of the types of activity and skills required of in-house counsel. This understanding has value for students contemplating careers as in-house counsel or in private practice. The course will concentrate on the skills needed in an international business engaged in manufacturing and service activities, though many elements would also be relevant in other contexts (such as banking, consultancy, construction, education, not-for-profits, healthcare, and etc.). Topics include compliance, dispute
management, business evolution (e.g., mergers and acquisitions), commercial relationships, and business regulation.

**Sports Sponsorship and Contract Negotiation 454.** Myriad legal issues emerge from sports sponsorships, whereby a company or organization sponsors a sports league, team, athlete or event in exchange for brand recognition. For example, in NASCAR, a corporation may sponsor NASCAR, an event, a team or a driver. The increase in sports sponsorships and the evolution of sports sponsorship away from traditional forms of advertising have increased the range of relevant legal and business issues. This course examines the pertinent legal issues, including agency, contracts, intellectual property, labor, tax and torts. These converging doctrines ultimately impact whether parties involved in sponsorship relationships achieve their business objectives. The course also offers students an opportunity to develop practical skills through exercises, including drafting and negotiating sponsorship agreements. Professor Jeff McLeod will teach this course; you can view his web profile at http://mcleodathleticsconsulting.com/index.php/consultants/19-all/154-mcleod-bio.

**Immigration Law, Selected Topics 558.** The traditional course in Immigration Law 564 deals with the complexities of the immigration statutes, agency regulations, and practice-oriented issues that attorneys face in this field. This new course, by contrast, deals with the tradeoffs and debates related to the formation of immigration policy. Professor Taylor has drafted a brief memo about the distinct objectives of these two different courses and it is posted on the Registrar Office web site for Fall 2015 registration.

**Internet Law 575.** Professor David Levine, a full-time faculty member at Elon University, will teach this course. You can see his web profile at http://www.elon.edu/e-web/law/faculty/levine_david.xhtml. The course covers the regulation of Internet access and domain names; contract formation, execution and enforceability; personal jurisdiction and choice of law; trademark and copyright infringement; and privacy concerns. For the first time this year, it will also include a unit on robotics.

**CONCENTRATED FORMAT COURSES**

Several courses will be offered during the Fall 2015 semester in a “concentrated format” — that is, the class will meet for extended periods during a portion of the semester, with students completing their work well before the end of the semester. You can find the details for these courses in the “Calendar Notes” section of the course schedule.

In particular, I draw your attention to **European Union Law 572**, which matters to any lawyer with clients who want to do business in Europe. Students in this course will survey the significant laws and policies of the European Community, including
the legal and institutional framework, the internal market, competition and environmental laws and an overview of external relations and commercial policy. Professor Iyiola Solanke, a faculty member from the University of Leeds in the U.K., will teach this course. You can see her web profile at http://www.law.leeds.ac.uk/people/staff/solanke/. This course will meet four afternoons per week during the first four weeks of the semester. Here is Professor Solanke’s description of the course:

Why did Microban, a company located in North Carolina, seek judicial review of EU law before the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in Luxembourg? And how is this done? Using a variety of materials – the EU Treaties and secondary law, journal articles, case law and official documents - this module aims to give students a thorough grounding in the practice and international consequences of EU law through exploration of the constitutional and institutional foundations as well as specific core topics of substantive law such as trade, competition, immigration and human rights.

PASS/FAIL OPTION

You can take certain courses on a pass/fail basis; the eligible courses are indicated on the “courses offered” list as posted on the Registrar's web site. The pass/fail version of a course appears as a separate course in the WIN system, with a “P” attached to the end of the course number. For instance, Family Law 508-1 is the regular graded section and Family Law 508-1P is the pass/fail version of the same course.

The pass/fail option is subject to certain limitations. If you are not enrolled in a dual degree program, you may earn up to 7 hours of pass/fail credit toward your required hours for graduation. But you may not take more than three hours of course work on a pass/fail basis in any one semester. The 7-hour limit for ungraded credit does not include participation in moot court, trial team, journal positions, practicums, internships and externships for which you receive non-graded credit, and credit earned in other units of the university, such as the School of Business, the Divinity School, or the Graduate School.

Students enrolled in a dual degree program may count only 4 pass/fail hours earned in the law school toward their hours for graduation.
CREDIT FOR GRADUATE COURSES TAKEN ELSEWHERE IN THE UNIVERSITY

A law student who is not enrolled in a dual degree program may, with the approval of the Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, earn up to four credit hours in the Schools of Business, the Divinity School, or the Graduate School, to be credited towards the J.D. degree. Law students must obtain the permission from the professors who teach the selected courses. These courses will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Credits earned under this program will not count toward the seven hours of pass/fail credit allowed for the J.D. degree but will count in the twenty hour limit on experiential and non-JD courses. An approval form can be obtained from the Registrar’s Office in the law school.

DISTANCE COURSES

A few courses this semester are offered in a “distance” format. That is, more than one-third of the instruction in the course happens with the instructor and the student in physically separate locations. These courses are indicated with a blue background on the list of courses offered for this academic year. You can count up to 15 credit hours earned in a distance format toward the 90 hours needed for a J.D. degree.

FIELD PLACEMENTS

Various courses allow students to obtain academic credit while working outside the law school in partnership with attorneys in the field (a “field supervisor”) and a member of the full-time faculty (an “academic supervisor”). Three different forms of field placements are described below: internships, judicial externships, and practicum extensions.

As you choose among the field placement electives, remember this limitation: students may earn no more than 20 hours of credit for study outside the classroom. This limitation includes externships, internships, practicums, co-curricular activities (journals and moot court-related activities), and non-JD courses earned in other departments or schools at this university or another institution of higher learning. This limit does not include clinics.

Internships, course 440. During the summer or during the school year, a student may receive 1 or 2 pass/fail credits for an internship in a law-related placement of the student’s choosing, subject to the approval of a faculty supervisor whom the student has enlisted. The student submits a statement of goals to the faculty supervisor and meets with the supervisor on the goals before the internship begins. During the internship, the student submits reflection papers and at the end of the
Internship, the student submits a concluding reflection paper or paper related to the subject matter of the placement and meets with the faculty member for a de-briefing. The faculty supervisor will set the requirements to promote reflection during the semester (usually taking the form of weekly reflection papers), reflection at the end of the semester (usually taking the form of a concluding paper), and a minimum number of field work hours.

**Judicial Externships, course 340.** A student may receive 1 or 2 pass/fail credits for a fall or spring semester judicial externship. The student works with a faculty supervisor of the student’s choice on the selection of a judge. The student submits a statement of goals to the faculty supervisor and meets with the supervisor on the goals before the externship begins. See the discussion above for “Internships” for the reflection and field work hours requirements.

**Practicum Extensions, course 350.** A resident faculty member who teaches a doctrinal course may make the Practicum Extension available for that course. If so, a student may receive 1 or 2 hours of graded or ungraded credit for an externship related to the subject matter of the course. A student who knows of a practice experience in the subject matter of the doctrinal course may ask the faculty member teaching the course to consider a Practicum Extension. The faculty member and a practicing lawyer or other professional supervise the student in a practical experience “extending” the course.

The extension may be available for a course taken currently or in a past semester. For instance, a student enrolled in Securities Regulation for three credits might add one or two extra credits to the course for a “Securities Regulation Practicum,” based on law-related work in the practice of a securities lawyer (or other professional). A student may enroll in the Practicum Extension more than once if the underlying subject areas for the different Practicum Extensions are substantially different.

**Independent Research, courses 505 and 605.** Independent research projects under the supervision of a professor carry either one or two hours of credit. These projects differ from the internships described above because they are not field placements. Instead, these projects emphasize research and writing on an academic topic related to law or legal institutions.

No student may earn more than a total of three independent study credits in all, and no more than two credits on a single project, or from a single professor. These projects are graded on a pass-fail basis.