To: Students Interested in Immigration Course Offerings

From: Professor Margaret Taylor

Re: Planned Immigration Course Offerings for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Two different immigration courses will be offered next year. Neither course is a prerequisite for the other, and students will be permitted to enroll in either or both classes. So that students might choose the course(s) that best match their interests, this memo highlights the distinctions between the two.

1. The traditional three-credit Immigration Law survey course will be offered in Spring 2016. This course will cover a broad range of topics as we cover the landscape of immigration law: acquisition of citizenship by birth and naturalization; admission criteria and procedures; exclusion grounds; deportation grounds and procedures; relief from removal; unlawful migration; enforcement strategies; and immigration reform proposals.

A key focus of the survey course is learning the intricacies of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Class discussion will regularly focus on statutory problems, and you have the option (but are not required) to turn in written problem analysis, which will cement your understanding of the statutory provisions we discuss. This optional written homework will count in a way that can help, but will not hurt, your final grade.

There will be a self-scheduled, open book final exam at the end of the Immigration Law survey course. Various constitutional law issues that arise in immigration law are also part of the Immigration Law survey course. So in addition to statutory problems, the final exam will include a constitutional law essay question.

As part of learning the nuts and bolts of immigration law, we will of course address important policy issues that arise from the statute and are hot topics of debate today. But in the Immigration Law survey course, our primary focus is learning to decipher and apply the major parts of the immigration statute.

Students enrolled in the Immigration Law survey course must have already taken or be simultaneously enrolled in Constitutional Law I and Legislation & Administrative Law.
2. Immigration Law: Selected Topics will be offered in the Fall 2015 as a limited enrollment seminar on Immigration Policy.

The Immigration Policy seminar will be a 2-credit class that will meet once a week. Each class period will focus on one or more major immigration policy issues, including many topics you’ve seen in the news in recent months. While we will study the underlying statutory framework necessary to understand the issues we discuss, Immigration Law: Selected Topics is not a survey course and will not comprehensively cover the major components of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

There are no prerequisite or co-requisite course requirements for Immigration Law: Selected Topics.

The assessment methods for the Immigration Policy seminar have not been finalized, but students will have the option of enrolling in the course for upper level writing requirement credit.