MEMO TO: All 2L and 3L J.D. Students and S.J.D., L.L.M. and M.S.L. Students
FROM: Timothy Davis, Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
DATE: 16 October 2015
SUBJECT: Elective Courses to Spotlight for Spring 2016 Registration

You already received a working draft of the class schedule. All 2L and 3L students also will receive a memo that summarizes the degree requirements for J.D. students. This memo directs your attention to some noteworthy elective courses that deserve your attention this semester.

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.

617 - Advanced Family Law: A Case Study. Professor Elise Whitley will teach this course, which provides an in-depth analysis of the legal regulation of family relationships, with special emphasis on the complex written agreements that attorneys create and rely upon in this field. Professor Whitley comes to us with the enthusiastic endorsement of Dean Reynolds and of prominent members of the local bar who specialize in Family Law. Professor Whitley was a 2001 graduate of Wake Forest School of Law and is rated as a board certified specialist in Family Law and rated as a North Carolina Super Lawyer in Family Law.

203-3, Business Organizations. Professor Omari Simmons will offer a new 3 credit-hour Business Associations course. He describes the course as follows:

Survey of the law relating to corporations and other forms of business organization. Areas of coverage, with varying degrees of emphasis, include: choice of business form; partnership and other incorporated entities; corporate formation; capitalizations and distributions; closely held corporations, law of agency; allocation of authority among stockholders, directors, and officers; fiduciary duties; derivative litigation; insider trading, proxy regulation; mergers, contests for control, and other fundamental changes.
420 - Business Drafting LAWR. Heather Gram joins our impressive lineup of Business Drafting professors. Professor Gram, a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Law and the University of North Carolina, has extensive Entertainment Law experience. She served as primary legal counsel for all issues related to the Oprah Winfrey Show and its related content, managing a staff of 11 and interacting daily with more than 100 producers.

619 - Corporate Finance. Professor Andrew Verstein will teach this course for the first time and promises that it will be entirely new in his hands. This course involves a study of the allowable changes in a corporation’s financial structure with concentration on the recapitalization of solvent corporations, reorganization of insolvent corporations, and concepts of valuation. This course will emphasize the role that lawyers play in structuring and implementing financial transactions for corporations. Prerequisite: Business Organizations.

674 - Immigration Law: Practicum Extension. This two-hour Practicum Extension course is open only to students who have already taken or are concurrently enrolled in Immigration Law [564-0]. The Practicum Extension course supplements the Immigration Law survey course with practical skills instruction, providing students who may have an interest in practicing immigration law with a significant experiential learning opportunity. The course will center on written exercises and simulations, many adapted from actual case files. The course will be taught by adjunct professor Helen Parsonage, who is a North Carolina Board Certified immigration attorney, with the assistance of Professor Margaret Taylor. Enrollment is limited to 8 students, and is by permission of Professors Taylor and Parsonage.

455 - Juvenile Law Externship. This course, which will include both classroom and field components, offers an overview of juvenile delinquency proceedings. The class component will cover substantive and procedural aspects of juvenile delinquency proceedings along with relevant social science background. The field component will allow students to observe juvenile court judges and to represent juveniles in delinquency proceedings and related matters, under the supervision of practicing attorneys. Judge Larry Fine and Professor Ron Wright will teach the course. Trial Practice Lab 610 is a pre-requisite or co-requisite for this course, unless the student obtains the permission of the instructor to waive this requirement. Consult the calendar notes in the registration materials for special scheduling requirements.

561 - Mergers and Acquisitions ULWR. This course will be taught by Chris Gyves, a partner in Womble Carlyle’s Corporate & Securities Practice Group and Chair of the Firm’s Public Company Advisors Team, a multi-office team consisting of corporate, capital markets and tax attorneys who service the firm’s public company clients. Professor Gyves, who is a Wake Forest JD/MBA graduate, has substantial experience in corporate finance, securities regulation, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance,
strategic partnering and technology transfer. The course will provide an in-depth analysis of federal and state regulation of corporate takeovers to include acquisition techniques, legal protection afforded shareholders and others, federal tender offer and disclosure rules, state corporate fiduciary law and anti-takeover statutes. Prerequisite: Business Organizations.

453 - Property II. Professor Tanya Marsh will teach this addition to our course offerings. She offers the following description:

Property II will focus on a subset of real property doctrines that are tested on the multistate bar exam and/or often encountered in a variety of practice settings. The course will be organized around four units of study: (1) landlord/tenant law, (2) private land use controls (real covenants, equitable servitudes, and easements), (3) real estate finance and mortgages, and (4) public land use controls (zoning). Each unit of study will consist of two components. First, using a hornbook rather than a casebook, we will discuss the relevant doctrines and their application (similar to the method of instruction in a bar review course). Second, using actual statutes, regulations, cases, and documents, we will collectively and in small groups address realistic problems in a practice setting. This is not a writing course. The exam(s) will consist of multiple choice questions (mimicking multistate bar exam questions) and questions that require you to analyze a realistic problem based on a small portfolio of provided materials.

CONCENTRATED FORMAT COURSES

Several courses will be offered during the Spring 2016 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.

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 508-2 is the regular graded section and Family Law 508-2P 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, 610L Trial Practice Lab, 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 School 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 include Professional Responsibility 305-3; Human Relations Practices and Business Torts 428-0; Sales and Secured Transactions, Integrated 442-0; and Bankruptcy 515-0.

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 debriefing. 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 Corporate Finance for two credits might add one or two extra credits to the course for a “Corporate Finance 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.