



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW



Winter 2017 Course Schedule Registration Procedures and Course Listings

Released 12-5-16

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Winter 2017 Academic Calendar

Priority Registration: 22 or more earned hours
by the end of Fall 2016

Monday, October 24, 2016 through
Wednesday, October 26, 2016

Last Day to Add or Drop Classes

**Monday, December 19, 2016
by 5:00 p.m.**

First Day of Classes

Monday, January 2, 2017

Last Day to Elect Pass/Fail

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Last Day of Classes

Saturday, January 7, 2017

Winter 2017 Priority Registration

Due to the law school's [credit hour policy](#) and ABA standards governing the calculation of a credit hour, you may not register for more than one credit hour in a winter session. All classes for the winter term are limited enrollment. Registration for these classes will be prioritized by each student's earned credits, not by the date and time the registration form is submitted.

Priority registration forms for winter term may be submitted to Student Services on **Monday, October 24 and Tuesday, October 25**. You may register for winter term classes either by submitting an electronic registration form through the law school website Student Services page (click [here](#) for a link) or by submitting a paper hard copy to Student Services. **No registration through Howdy will be available for winter term classes.** Do not submit electronic or paper registration forms before October 24. Student Services will not accept early requests and will not be responsible for forms dropped off early.

On Wednesday, October 26, Student Services will begin enrolling students in winter term courses by priority based on each student's anticipated earned hours at the end of the fall 2016 semester. Registration notifications will **ONLY** be sent to your **@email.tamu.edu** e-mail, so please check it frequently.

Registration for the winter term will continue through 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 19.

Limited Enrollment Classes & Waitlists

Waitlisting for these classes will be prioritized by each student's earned credits. Student Services will notify by e-mail all students who have requested registration in these classes to let them know whether they are registered or waitlisted. If you do not see your registration on [Howdy](#), check your **@email.tamu.edu** e-mail account for messages or contact Student Services to inquire about your waitlist status.

Important message about waitlists:

If you are waitlisted for a winter term class, you must submit a course drop form to be removed from that waitlist. If a seat becomes available at any time and you have not submitted a course drop form, you will be registered for that class accordingly. If a seat becomes available and we cannot register you for any reason, and we cannot reach you, we will move to the next person on the waitlist. Please monitor your e-mail frequently if you are on a waitlist.

Evening Classes (6:00pm or later)

Part-time evening students will be given priority to register for evening classes during priority registration.

Enrollment Limits

Students may enroll in only one class for the winter term.

Adding and Dropping Courses

Students may add or drop classes at Student Services from Monday, October 24 until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 19. After December 19, registration forms will no longer be accepted or processed.

Attendance Policy

Due to the collaborative and condensed nature of Winter Term classes, class attendance is mandatory. **Any absence for any reason will result in administrative withdrawal from the course.**

Cancellation of Classes

Classes may be cancelled for low enrollment. This decision is made by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

Pass/Fail Election

To elect a course pass/fail, you must make that designation on a paper pass/fail request form. Such designations must be turned in to Student Services by the end of the day of the second class meeting. To preserve anonymity, students must not communicate a pass/fail election to the professor. Doing so is a violation of the code of conduct.

Student Services must first verify your eligibility for pass/fail credit. Please review section 8.5 of the law school's Academic Standards found in the [Student Handbook](#) for rules and limitations on pass/fail credits.

Winter Course Descriptions

Case Evaluation and Client Relationships (Special Topics)

LAW-7900-601 CRN-28244

This is a practical, real life workshop course that will teach the student how to evaluate a case and then maintain the client relationship. The term “case” means any new legal matter, whether transactional or litigation. We will touch on getting the new case, evaluating the new case and then maintaining the client relationship throughout the case. As important, we will teach the student when to reject a new case and why.

No absences are allowed. This is a graded course.

Instructor: Jamshyd (Jim) M. Zadeh

Prerequisite: One year of law school in the full-time or part-time program.

Civil Evidence Workshop

LAW-7891S-601 CRN-28247

This skills practicum focuses on practical subjects related to courtroom evidence. The workshop provides instruction, demonstration, and practice in offering common forms of evidence in civil and criminal trials; common objections and responses to courtroom evidence; depositions, statements, and sworn testimony; and preserving the record and offers of proof.

This workshop is open to all students and is recommended for all law students interested in law school mock trial competition or careers in trial advocacy.

No absences are allowed. Grading for this course will be on a Pass/Fail basis.

This course counts toward the oral skills and experiential requirements.

Instructor: Joe Spence

Prerequisite: (1) One year of law school in the full-time or part-time program;
 (2) Evidence (may be taken concurrently).

Courthouse Perspectives

LAW-7890-01

CRN-28248

This course does not count toward the oral skills requirement.

This course will provide students with a practical, hands-on study of various courts in the Tarrant County area, including the Court of Appeals, District Courts (civil, criminal, and family), County Courts (civil, criminal, and probate), and Justice of the Peace courts. Students will learn about the function, jurisdiction, and personnel of each court. Each day will begin with a lecture at the Court of Appeals by Justice McCoy, which will be followed by visits to the various courts. During the various visits, students will be introduced to judges, court coordinators, and court reporters. If possible, students will be allowed to observe proceedings in each court they visit. This course will also stress proper courtroom etiquette and nuts-and-bolts procedural training on topics such as how to actually file a document with a court.

An initial lecture each day will take place at the Second Court of Appeals in Fort Worth; however, the exact schedule of court visits will not be available until the week before classes start, due to the unpredictability of court dockets.

A short test will be administered at the law school at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 6.

No absences are allowed. This is a graded course.

Instructor: Justice John R. "Bob" McCoy

Prerequisite: One year of law school in the full-time or part-time program.

Deposition Skills Workshop

LAW-7887S-601

CRN-28249

This course gives students the opportunity to learn the art of deposition practice and the strategy behind taking depositions. Students will learn and practice fundamental depositions skills; rules pertaining to depositions in federal and state court; how to properly notice a deposition; and how to depose parties, fact witnesses, and experts. The course will conclude with a final deposition performance class in which each student will be provided the opportunity to take and defend a deposition.

No absences are allowed. Grading for this course will be on a Pass/Fail basis.

This course counts toward the oral skills and experiential requirements.

Instructor: Christian Dennie

Prerequisite: One year of law school in the full-time or part-time program, including Civil Procedure.

Due Diligence for the Professional

LAW-7304-601 CRN-28251

This course does not count toward the oral skills requirement.

This course teaches practical skills in performing due diligence in business and financial transactions. Students will learn how to analyze documents like financial statements to uncover red flags for fraud. Students will receive a certification from the International Organization of Due Diligence.

No absences are allowed. Grading for this course will be on a Pass/Fail basis.

Instructor: Dean Andrew Morriss and L.B. Files

Prerequisite: One year of law school in the full-time or part-time program.

Recommended: Business Associations I

Government, Ethics, & the Public Sector Externship (Special Topics)

LAW-7900-602 CRN-28256

This is a required prep course for students in the spring 2017 Residency Externship Program. The course provides a review of federal and state governance, explores the extern's role in the policymaking process, introduces students to ethical issues within government, and allows students to research a topic related to their REP placement.

No absences are allowed. This is a graded course

Instructor: Lisa Rich

Prerequisite: Admission to Residency Externship Program. Only students in the Residency Externship Program may enroll in this course.

Labor Negotiations Workshop ~~CANCELLED 11-30-16~~

~~LAW-7390S-601 CRN-28257~~

~~Students will learn the process of contract negotiations in the labor setting in both the private and public sectors. Topics covered will include who has the right to bargain contracts, what can be bargained, bargaining in good faith and legal remedies. Bargaining techniques including data-driven proposals will be discussed. On the final day of the course, students will be involved in a labor bargaining simulation. Class grades are based on class participation and the final simulation exercise.~~

~~No absences are allowed. This is a graded course.
This course counts toward the oral skills and experiential requirements.~~

~~Instructor: Justin Zartman~~

~~Prerequisite: One year of law school in the full-time or part-time program, including Contracts.~~

Legal Writing in Plain English (Special Topics)

LAW-7900-603 CRN-28260

This demanding one-hour course is for law students who wish to improve their editorial and writing skills. Although it targets students who are already competent writers, it requires no in-depth knowledge of grammar or rhetoric. You will not be expected, for example, to know what aposiopesis means or even how to pronounce it. The class spans two days: from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday (with breaks interspersed, of course). Students will do several writing exercises. Guest lecturers (by exclusive video) include judges and practitioners from throughout the United States.

~~No absences are allowed. Grading for this course will be on a Pass/Fail basis.~~

~~Instructor: Bryan Garner~~

~~Prerequisite: One year of law school in the full-time or part-time program.~~

Scientific Criminal Evidence Workshop **CANCELLED 12-5-16**

~~LAW-7889S-601 CRN-28261~~

~~Students in this class will learn the theory and practice of using scientific evidence in criminal trials. Specific topics to be covered may include the value and use of DNA, mental health, polygraph, and autopsy evidence. Particular attention will be paid to understanding, preparing for, and conducting "Daubert hearings," which involve challenges to the admissibility of scientific expert testimony. The format of the class will include lecture by the professor and guest speakers, as well as simulations involving students who will be required to assume the roles of both prosecutors and defense lawyers.~~

~~No absences are allowed. This is a graded course.~~

~~This course counts toward the oral skills and experiential requirements.~~

~~Instructor: Chuck Mallin~~

~~Prerequisite: (1) One year of law school in the full-time or part-time program;
(2) Evidence (may be taken concurrently).~~

Course Grid

| MONDAY Jan. 2 | TUESDAY Jan. 3 | WEDNESDAY Jan. 4 | THURSDAY Jan. 5 | FRIDAY Jan. 6 | SATURDAY Jan. 7 |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <u>9:00AM-12:00PM</u> Courthouse Perspectives Judge McCoy Off Campus | <u>9:00AM-12:00PM</u> Courthouse Perspectives Judge McCoy Off Campus | <u>9:00AM-12:00PM</u> Courthouse Perspectives Judge McCoy Off Campus | <u>9:00AM-12:00PM</u> Courthouse Perspectives Judge McCoy Off Campus | <u>9:00AM-12:00PM</u> Courthouse Perspectives Judge McCoy Off Campus & Exam at 11:00AM at the law school | |
| | | | | <u>9:00AM-4:00PM</u> Legal Writing in Plain English (Special Topics) Garner | <u>9:00AM-4:00PM</u> Legal Writing in Plain English (Special Topics) Garner |
| | | | <u>9:30AM-3:30PM</u> Due Diligence for the Professional Morriss/Files | <u>9:30AM-3:30PM</u> Due Diligence for the Professional Morriss/Files | <u>9:00AM-1:00PM</u> Due Diligence for the Professional Morriss/Files |
| <u>12:00-2:00PM</u> Deposition Skills Workshop Dennie | <u>9:30AM-1:30PM</u> Deposition Skills Workshop Dennie |
| <u>12:00-3:00PM</u> Government, Ethics, & the Public Sector Externship (Special Topics) Rich | |
| <u>1:30-4:30PM</u> Case Evaluation and Client Relationships (Special Topics) Zadeh | |
| <u>6:00-9:00PM</u> Civil Evidence Workshop Spence | |