

Mentor Externship Seminar, 2004-2005
Syllabus
Working Draft, updated on 2/1/05

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Course Description

The mission of our law school is to integrate faith and reason in the search for truth through a focus on morality and social justice. Mentor Externship Seminar fosters the habit and skill of reflective lawyering and draws on student/mentor experiences to examine our mission in a practical setting. Class topics are designed to bridge the gap between student learning and life as a lawyer. Each student is given the opportunity to individualize learning goals specific to his or her unique path of professional development.

Course Schedule

Tuesdays at Noon, Room 242, (8/17, 9/14, 10/19, 11/16, 1/18, 2/15, 3/8, 4/5)

Wednesdays at Noon, Room 242, (8/18, 9/15, 10/20, 11/17, 1/26, 2/9, 3/9, 4/6)

Thursdays at Noon, Room 242, (8/19, 9/16, 10/21, 11/18, 1/20, 2/10, 3/10, 4/7)

Course Credit

1 credit earned after completing both fall and spring semesters; seminar available to only second and third-year students.

Course Materials

For 2004-05, I will provide all course materials to students. Copies of the required readings and assignments will be placed in the student mailboxes at least one week prior to class.

Course Overview

The following is an overview of Mentor Externship approved by the faculty:

Credit: 1 credit earned in the second year
1 credit earned in the third year

Annual Time
Commitment for
Each Student:

Classroom	Seminar setting 8 hours (8 50-minute classes) 4 meetings in the fall 4 meetings in the spring
Reading and Class Preparation	12 hours (1.5 hours per class)
Journals	6 hours (6 entries; minimum of 500 words) Journal entries are due on class numbers 2-8 (October – April)
Fieldwork/ work with Mentor	24 hours (includes all meetings, experiences, and debriefings); of the 24 hours, 15 hours will be experience related hours
Total	50 hours

Classroom Requirements

- Be prepared to engage in candid, thoughtful and vigorous conversation with your peers. Use your mentor experiences as a starting point for class discussions. Use the required readings to analyze and reflect on your activity with your mentor.
- Attend 8 classes per year. A successful learning environment depends on attendance and participation. We only have eight sessions over the course of a year. One unexcused absence will result in a failing grade.
- Complete written and oral assignments on time.
- Maintain a journal to be graded; journal entries will synthesize class discussions, readings, experiences and personal reflections.

Fieldwork Requirements

- Prepare a personal and professional development plan (PPDP); the PPDP is an individualized goal-setting worksheet;
- **Submit completed and signed PPDP by Friday, October 1, 2004;**
- Complete a minimum of 15 (fifteen) **experience hours** during the year;

- Complete a minimum of 5 (five) experiences during the year;
- Following the completion of all program requirements, print activity log and review the activities with the mentor. Obtain the mentor's signature on the activity log and submit to the Director of Mentor Externship. **For graduating third-year students, completed logs are due Friday, May 6, 2005; for second-year and continuing third-year students, completed logs are due Friday, May 27, 2005.**
- Complete a year-end evaluation.

Journals

Each student will complete six journal entries; each entry will be a minimum of 500 words. Journal entries are due on class numbers 2-8 (September – April). Students can turn in journal entries during the assigned class period.

Record Keeping

Each student is required to maintain an accurate record of time spent engaging in activities with his or her mentor, or fulfilling student requirement. All activities should be logged contemporaneously. Required recordings include goal setting exercises with mentor, meeting time with mentor, all communications with mentor, debriefings with mentor or another lawyer or judge, all experiences, preparation time for mentor activities and travel time. Students should not log class time, class assignments and journaling activity.

Grading

Grading will be pass/fail for 2004-2005. A passing grade means all classroom and fieldwork requirements were completed at a professional level including meeting deadlines.

Topics and Assignments

- Class 1 – Introductions and Overview
- Class 2 – Setting Goals and First Ethical Principles
- Class 3 – Maximizing Learning Opportunities with a Supervisor
- Class 4 – Professionalism and the Profession
- Class 5 – The Attorney-Client Relationship
- Class 6 – Faith, Social Justice and the Life of a Lawyer
- Class 7 – Servant Leadership
- Class 8 – Bias in the Profession