Bemidji State University

POL 2800: Introduction to Law and Law School

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

Provides students with a comprehensive understanding of law and society as well as introducing students to the process of entering the legal profession. [Core Curriculum Goal Area(s) 5 & 9]

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/01/2024 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Origins and meanings of law
2. Areas of law
3. Judicial philosophy and legal interpretation
4. Preparation for law school

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. understand the definition of law, the relationship between law and society, the function and dysfunction of law, families of law, and approaches to the study of law.
2. compare and contrast the major theoretical approaches to law and society, including natural law, legal positivism, legal realism, and various contemporary approaches.
3. explain the operations of and the connection between the judicial system, the legislative process, and federal administrative agencies.
4. summarize the historical development of the American legal profession and the various types of legal practitioners.
5. evaluate various groups' access to justice.
6. explain the process and various forms of dispute resolution.
7. understand the nature of an adversarial trial system and the role of defense and prosecuting attorneys.
8. summarize the historical development of juries, as well as jury selection and decision-making.
9. plan a personal route to law school by identifying the steps in the process and a personal strategy for success in applying.
10. prepare for success in the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) or an alternative qualifying approach.
11. write a persuasive personal statement for law school admission.
E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci
1. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp
1. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
2. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
3. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted