MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY SENIOR RESEARCH AND WRITING SEMINAR IN JURISPRUDENCE Fall and Spring Course Information

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this year-long course is for students to develop the skills and knowledge to carry out interdisciplinary research and to apply the understandings gained to advance cognitive understanding of a research question that requires an interdisciplinary approach. The goal of the course is for students to carry out interdisciplinary research resulting in a 35-page paper. Since this course is a seminar in Jurisprudence, the question selected by each student must have law as one of the constituent disciplines. Students learn to value the disciplines and their contribution to interdisciplinary research. They learn to appreciate the value of the interdisciplinary approach to problem solving and to apply it to the world of graduate study and employment, a world that is not characterized by academic disciplinary boundaries.

Prior to the Fall semester, students have two Summer assignments:

- (1) Reading and analyzing the novel *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn. *Ishmael* helps students to develop an appreciation of the role of the disciplines in an interdisciplinary approach to problems.
- (2) The exploration of an area for research culminating in the preparation of a draft hypothesis/ research question. Over the course of the summer, student and professor communicate intensively by e-mail with the goal of developing a hypothesis that is both focused and interdisciplinary.

During the Fall semester, students follow the dual process of learning the process of interdisciplinary research using Allen Repko's book, *Interdisciplinary Research*, and applying the interdisciplinary research process to their chosen research question. The research hypothesis undergoes continual revision as students prepare literature searches [annotated bibliographies of reference works in the disciplines most essential to the study of their topic], organize data management charts of their readings, develop tentative outlines of their papers and finally prepare a draft sample of one chapter of their papers. Throughout the course, students are provided with checklists or rubrics for each assignment.

During the Spring semester, students apply the interdisciplinary process learned in the Fall semester to the completion of their 35-page papers. They use their data management charts to aid in the writing of their disciplinary chapters, culminating in the evaluation of each disciplinary insight and its application to their research issue. The research issue is refined through this process as students keep returning to prior steps of the interdisciplinary research process, recognizing its non-linear character. Students write their integration chapters by identifying conflicting insights within and between disciplines, creating and/or discovering common ground between conflicting insights, and integrating insights to produce an interdisciplinary understanding of the problem. Throughout the writing process, students improve their writing skills through the study of books by Harris and by Strunk and White. They reinforce legal analysis through the study of Romantz's book. Each student ends the paper with conclusions and possible directions for further study.

The final event of the course is a participation in the College's Student Research Symposium. Each student prepares an abstract of his or her work and chooses to present orally or to prepare a poster. This event is both an ending and a beginning. While students who are completing the course are presenting at the Symposium, students who will be enrolled in the course for the following year are all present in the audience to preview the process that they will experience during the following year. At this conference, the summer pre-readings are distributed to the incoming class and the process begins anew.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1. To understand the research process and research methods in legal, social science, humanistic, and historical research.
- 2. To become a good consumer of the research carried out by others.
- 3. To develop the skills to be able to carry out interdisciplinary research for academic papers.
- 4. To improve the overall quality of writing and analytical skills.
- 5. To apply research methods to interdisciplinary Law in the Liberal Arts research.
- 6. In the fall semester, to learn to view appropriate areas of research through an interdisciplinary process of disciplinary study: developing a hypothesis, planning the research paper, carrying out literature searches to find appropriate research materials, outlining the research paper and writing sample parts of chapters for the paper.
- 7. In the spring semester, to complete the writing of a 35-page double-spaced interdisciplinary research paper culminating in the integration of theories, insights and concepts.
- 8. In the spring semester, to present the paper either in a poster or in an oral presentation at the CHSS Annual Research Symposium in April.
- 9. To become equipped, through the year's course, to apply interdisciplinary methodology to "real life" problems.

Grade Scale:***

A= 92-100; A-=90-91.99; B+=87-89.99; B=82-86.99; B-=80-81.99

C+=77-79.99 : C=72-76.99 : C-=70-71.99

D+=67-69.99; D=62-66.99; D=60-61.99; F=Below 60.

***Note: Attendance, class participation and in class exercises and assignments may raise your semester grade by up to ½ grade, such as B to B+, or lower your semester grade up to ONE FULL GRADE, such as from B to C. Weekly research logs count toward participation.

Policy on Assignments

Written assignments and exercises are collected during the class on the date on which the assignments are due, as announced in the Course Syllabus. Any paper offered to me after I have collected the assignment from the rest of the class will be considered late. I will only accept a late paper or assignment in cases of serious personal emergency as noted above. If I do accept a later paper, I will automatically deduct ten (10) points for each class session that the paper is late. Under no circumstances will I accept a late paper for grading once that assignment has been graded and returned to the rest of the class. Since I generally return graded assignments at the next class after the one when they are due, this does not leave you much opportunity for late assignments! I am only flexible on time requirements in a very limited way because that is the way it will be in your professional life. You will be given an assignment or a project over a period of days or weeks and you will be expected to organize your time to get the work done in a timely fashion.

Graded Assignments:

Ishmael Summary
 Research Paper Proposal
 Annotated Literature Search I
 20%

[includes case brief and data management chart]

4. Annotated Literature Search II 20%

[includes research methods book and data management chart]

5. Paper Outline and chart of disciplinary insights 5%

[includes introduction, disciplinary chapters, integration chapter and conclusions]

6. Repko Homework questions
7. Examination Repko and *Ishmael*8. Sample research paper pages
20%

[3-4 double-spaced <u>heavily footnoted</u> pages for each of two disciplinary chapters. Total 6 to 8 pages, demonstrating disciplinary discussion of theories, concepts, assumptions, etc. in preparation for integration in the Spring semester.]

By 9 pm on Monday of each week that you do not have a literature search, paper, or examination, you should e-mail me a weekly "Research Log" of your research progress for the prior week. Each log should be <u>a cut and paste</u> in an e-mail. You log should be dated and be cumulative. In other words, include the work of all prior weeks in each week's e-mail.

Notes on Graded Assignments:

Detailed instructions on all assignments are posted on Blackboard, together with samples. However, you should note that the format of the course is changed from prior semesters so that you should not follow old models precisely. Additionally, there are errors of citation form and other errors in prior student papers, so you should use them to get ideas, but not assume that all content is correct.

- 1. *Ishmael* is the summer pre-reading assignment due at the first class.
- 2. Your research paper proposal should be approximately one to two typewritten pages. Your issue should be stated in 3 forms. You should then list your disciplines and sub-disciplines and provide definitions of any essential terms as well as a research plan that is a road map of how you see the direction of your research over the course of the year and what conclusions you expect to draw. These, of course, are subject to revision. Your proposed area of research must require the contribution of more than one disciplinary perspective in order to gain adequate understanding and arrive at conclusions that integrate the various disciplinary perspectives. You are required to have instructor approval for your initial research hypothesis and for any changes to your research hypothesis. Note that most students make some change to the original proposal at some point throughout the year.
- 3. Your first annotated **literature search** includes, in proper citation form, a minimum of <u>12</u> sources which you intend to consult for your term paper. Each source is followed by an **annotation**, in two paragraphs, *briefly* summarizing the work <u>and how it is relevant to your project</u>. Please note that this does not mean an overall summary of the entire work At least 1/3, but preferably a minimum of ½, of your sources should be hard copy rather than internet. For at least 9 of your 12 sources, you must fill out the detailed Repko Data Management Chart. It is expected that most of the sources for your first literature search will be law-related sources.

With regard to primary sources, you need at least **ONE full case, fully and properly cited,** as a source, referred to as your "touchstone case". You should include a **case brief of your touchstone case** with your literature search. Additionally, you are encouraged to find other related cases to support your legal perspectives, to facilitate your research. You need brief only your one touchstone case.

You should divide your literature search into primary and secondary sources. Primary sources are sometimes defined differently by disciplines other than law [e.g. historical documents are primary

sources for history.] Citation form can mean a full grade difference on your paper. In all cases, citation must follow the Chicago Manual of Style except for legal sources, which follow the New Jersey Manual of Style. Note: in using the New Jersey Manual of Style for legal sources, you should use italics instead of underlining [which is used in the New Jersey Manual].

The first annotated Literature Search submission includes:

- research issue possibly revised
- annotated literature search—divided into primary and secondary sources
- case brief of touchstone case [note: you should count the case as one of your sources and also write an annotation for the case.]
- Repko data management chart for at least 9 sources.
- The Rubric for the literature search should be included as the top page of this submission. You should consult the rubric prior to writing your literature search, in order to become familiar with criteria for grading the literature search.

In so far as methodology for sources in your literature search, it is most strongly suggested that you use **NOTE CARDS** to organize and access the information that you find during your literature search. Slade describes several methods for this process. It is invaluable in retrieving the information when you need it to write the paper.

4. Your second annotated literature search follows the same general guidelines as your first literature search. It is expected that most of the sources for your second literature search will deal with your second discipline [the discipline other than law]. You should hand in the sources for your first literature search also with your second literature search, but you should star all sources that are new for the second literature search.

Instead of a case, as in the prior literature search, as one of your 12 sources, your literature search MUST include a **BOOK dealing with research methods in your primary discipline other than law.** If you are dealing with a discipline which is nor your major or minor, you may instead include a book that deals with "Essentials of...." or "Introduction to...." your other discipline, as you need sufficient command of your second discipline to write a credible paper.

The second annotated Literature Search submission includes:

- research issue possibly revised
- annotated literature search divided into primary and secondary sources starring all sources not included in first literature search.
- annotation of research methods or introductory book as one of 12 sources.
- Repko data management chart. for at least 9 sources.
- The Rubric for the literature search should be included as the top page of this submission. You should consult the rubric prior to writing your literature search, in order to become familiar with criteria for grading the literature search.
- 5. Your **outline** is submitted together with your second literature search. It should demonstrate how you will employ the sources in your literature search to prepare your research paper. The outline should employ **parallel** categories for the two chapters representing your two disciplines in the research paper. At the beginning of the outline, you should re-state and possibly revise your research issue and the disciplines involved. The outline itself should be one to two single-spaced

typewritten pages and should an introduction, the parallel exposition of the different disciplinary perspectives in two chapters, a chapter for the integration of the disciplines and your conclusions. Wherever possible, you should put the author of any source that you expect to use for a particular part of the paper in parenthesis after the entry in your outline. **Note: Your outline will become the basis for your table of contents, including chapters and subchapters.**

You should also include a preliminary chart of the disciplines to demonstrate how you will be comparing disciplinary insights to arrive at integration. *Note: you may add other sources in your research paper. You are not limited to the sources in your literature search.*

- 6. Repko homework questions are due each week that Repko chapters are assigned. They may be typewritten or handwritten. They will be collected after we complete the Repko book. After each chapter's questions, you will also include notes on how you relate *Ishmael* to the particular Repko chapter. While you are permitted to form study groups and work together, your <u>actual answers</u> must be an individual work product and cannot precisely duplicate those of another student. In the case of precise duplication, both students will be given a zero for the assignment and other academic dishonesty policies may be invoked.
- 7. Your <u>examination</u> will include <u>all</u> readings, class lecture materials and discussion related to the included books, Repko and *Ishmael*. Material presented in class which is not included in the books may also be included in examinations. No make-up examinations will be given unless the student misses the examination because of a <u>serious personal emergency</u> such as a death in the family, a serious illness or the like, and only if I am <u>personally notified and agree to the make-up *prior to* the examination. The final determination of what constitutes a serious personal emergency will be left to my discretion. This same policy applies to assignments submitted late.</u>
- 8. Your research paper consists of two sets of sample research paper pages. You are to submit 3-4 double-spaced <u>heavily footnoted</u> pages for each of two disciplinary chapters, total 6 to 8 pages, demonstrating disciplinary discussion of theories, concepts, assumptions, etc.].

Your submission should include:

- Statement of research issue, possibly revised
- Table of contents [your outline converted to Table of Contents Format and divided into chapters and subchapters]. You should **star** the portions of the outline that you are writing about for this sample submission.
- 3-4 pages for each of two chapters—total 6-8 pages, heavily footnoted. Note: you should use <u>subheadings</u> within your chapters for ease of reading.
- An <u>unannotated</u> bibliography of the sources used for the pages submitted, divided into primary and secondary sources.

Your Research Paper Rubric is the first page of your submission for both the draft and final research papers. You should consult the rubric prior to writing your paper, in order to become familiar with criteria for grading the paper.

Structure of the paper for JURI496: Your research paper for JURI496 will include revision and amplification of the two disciplinary chapters, introduction, common ground and integration chapter, and

conclusions as well as Abstract. Your final paper at the end of JURI496 will total 35 pages plus Bibliography. It is expected that there will be changes to your outline, sources and possibly your issue as your research and writing progress.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY DOCUMENT

All students are required to read, sign and comply with a separate Memorandum of Understanding regarding academic integrity, plagiarism and cheating.

WRITING CENTER

You are encouraged to visit the Writing Center periodically throughout the semester as you write your paper. The graduate assistants working there will help you to learn to revise your thoughts and writing. While they will not write your paper for you, they will help you to see where you are not writing clearly or well and will provide you with suggestions for improvement.

METHODS OF RECEIVING AND HANDING IN ASSIGNMENTS:

Please keep copies of all of your written work in case I lose, misplace, request to see this work, or otherwise require this information. If neither you nor I have a copy of your assignment, I will assume that you did not do it and you will be graded accordingly.

I never accept any e-mail attachments due to problems with computer viruses.

I will not accept assignments placed in my mailbox in the Department office unless I have specifically given <u>you</u> prior permission for such placement. In addition, <u>I will not accept faxed or mailed</u> assignments from students, unless I given prior approval.

E-MAIL

There **may be** a problem if you have your e-mail forwarded to another account, as it is often slow to forward; **you forward e-mail at your own risk** of losing important information, as I frequently send out e-mail to the class and I use the e-mail address listed in Blackboard. Information Technology has added a "Forward Only" message forwarding option. This option re-routes incoming E-mail messages directly to the designated forwarding address(es) *without* putting a copy of the message in your mail.montclair.edu Inbox. With this option selected, users will no longer need to periodically clean out their mail.montclair.edu Inbox to avoid going over quota.

You should note that Montclair mail has had problems with forwarding to other accounts such as hotmail and roadrunner. It is YOUR responsibility to receive all e-mails sent and you are therefore urged to check and use Montclair mail directly as your e-mail source.

CLASS CANCELLATION:

In case of class cancellation, a note will be posted on the classroom door. I also will attempt to reach you by e-mail using the e-mail addresses on Blackboard.

PROGRESS LOG

Each of you is expected to develop a log using WORD. You should e-mail it to me weekly as a cut-and-paste in the e-mail, not as an attachment. You should add to the log weekly and report, on Monday of each week prior to class, what you have done to progress in your research paper:

- Hypothesis development
- Sources found and read
- Outline
- Literature search
- Data management chart
- Chart of the disciplines
- Cases: touchstone cases and lines of cases
- Write-up of chapter

etc.

This was suggested by students in prior classes as a way to help you to self-pace your work. You should be working on more than one aspect at the same time.

SENIOR RESEARCH AND WRITING SEMINAR IN JURISPRUDENCE FALL SYLLABUS

Sept. 3 Introduction to Research Methods: Interdisciplinary Research,

Legal Research and Social Science Research; the research process;

Use of data management charts;

SELF-DISCIPLINE in the research process; research logs.

Discussion of TOUCHSTONE CASE.

Print and read Formulation of Research Hypothesis with student samples [ATTACHMENT 1]

***Ishmael assignment [ATTACHMENT 0] collected (5% of grade)

E-MAIL RESEARCH LOG DUE by 9/7

Sept. 10 Interdisciplinary Research – Repko Preface, Chapters 1 and 2**

**Chapter answers are collected at the conclusion of Repko. Answer all chapter questions and write notes applying chapter to Ishmael.

Slade Preface. and pp.1-5, 42-45

Print and read:

Integrated Model of the Interdisciplinary Research Process [ATTACHMENT 2] Research Paper Proposal with student samples [ATTACHMENT 3]

Print and bring 4 copies of draft research paper proposals for small group work.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS FINALIZED.

Sept. 17 Repko Chapters 3 and 4

Slade pp. 18-22, 5-18, 25-26, 34-35

Print and read:

Description of Literature Search I with grading rubric and student samples

Description of Repko data management chart with samples

[ATTACHMENTS 4 AND 5]

Discussion of Organization and Categorization of Sources.

***Research paper proposal due (5% of grade)

E-MAIL RESEARCH LOG DUE by 9/21

Sept. 24 Repko Chapter 5

Bibliographic Format: Systems of Documentation

Slade pp. 130-134; Slade Chapter 7-- Chicago Manual

Legal Method: New Jersey Manual on Style for Judicial Opinions [Skim]

Print and read Description of Outline and Chart of Disciplines with student samples [ATTACHMENT 7]

Continued work on Literature Search. Find at least 3 sources. Find first touchstone case. Note: Work on Outline as you do Literature Search. Bring 4 copies of draft Literature Search for small group work.

E-MAIL RESEARCH LOG DUE by 9/28

Oct. 1 Repko Chapters 6 and 7 Discussion of Literature Search Rubric [ATTACHMENT 4]

E-MAIL RESEARCH LOG DUE by 10/5

Oct. 8 No class work on Literature Search I and Outline.

Oct. 15 Repko Chapter 8

Read and print Description of Literature Search II with grading rubric and student samples [ATTACHMENT 6] and Chart of the disciplines [ATTACHMENT 7]

***Literature Search I due (20% of grade)

**Include Literature Search Rubric as page 1 of your submission

E-MAIL RESEARCH LOG DUE by 10/19

Oct. 22 Repko Chapters 9 and 10

Note: Work on Outline and Paper as you work on Literature Search II

E-MAIL RESEARCH LOG DUE by 10/26

Oct. 29 Small group meetings and individual conferences. Continue work on Literature Search II.

E-MAIL RESEARCH LOG DUE by 11/2

Nov. 5 Repko Chapters 11 and 12

Note: Work on Outline and Paper as you do Literature Search
***Repko homework questions due (5% of grade)

Nov. 12 Read Slade pp. 23-25, 58-95

Description of JURI495 Research Paper with rubric [Attachment 8]

***Literature Search II due (20% of grade)

***Outline due (5% of grade)

**Include Literature Search Rubric as page 1 of your submission

Nov. 19 Feedback on Outline and Literature Search; Individual meetings. Bring all pages of paper written to date.

E-MAIL RESEARCH LOG DUE BY 11/16/ [Note: no class Nov. 26 Thanksgiving]

Dec. 3 ***Research paper due (20% of grade)

**Include Final Paper Rubric as page 1 of your submission

Dec. 10 ***Take-Home Examination due– Repko and Ishmael (20% of grade)

Dec. 17 Discussion of paper and examination. Return of research papers. Note: Class times will vary according to the final exam schedule.

SENIOR RESEARCH AND WRITING SEMINAR IN JURISPRUDENCE SPRING DRAFT OF COURSE INFORMATION AND SYLLABUS

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- 1. Romantz, David and Kathleen Elliott Vinson. *Legal Analysis: The Fundamental Skill*. Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 1998. **FOR BASIC LEGAL PRINCIPLES**
- 2. Harris, Robert A. *Using Sources Effectively*. 2nd ed. Glendale, CA: Pyrczak Publishing, 2005.

FOR BASICS OF RESEARCH-BASED WRITING.

- 3. Strunk, William and White, E.B. *The Elements of Style*. New York: Viking Penguin, 2005. **FOR STYLISTIC IMPROVEMENT.**
- 4. Slade, Carole. Form and Style. 13th ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2006.

FOR CITATION FORM (CHICAGO).

5. "Manual of Style for Judicial Opinions". Approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey. 2004. You should obtain this manual on line at http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/appdiv/manualonstyle.pdf

FOR LEGAL CITATION FORM.

7. Repko, Allen. Interdisciplinary Research. New York: Sage Publications, 2008.

SEARCH FOR PAPER FORMAT, PARTICULARLY INTEGRATION.

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:

1.	Romantz Homework questions	5%
2.	Harris Homework questions	5%

Note: all chapter submissions include data management chart and chart of disciplinary insights. Chapters 1 and 2 and final paper include additional "track changes" in WORD copy to demonstrate additions and changes to earlier submissions.

3.	Completed disciplinary chapter 1	15%
4.	Completed disciplinary chapter 2	15%
5	Introduction	5%

6. Integration chapter: conflicts, finding common ground, integration

and testing hypothesis 30%
7. Final paper 20%

Note: final paper must include a version with "track changes" in WORD to demonstrate changes from submissions of all earlier chapters plus a clean copy. The final paper includes conclusions, final unannotated bibliography and charts.

8. Abstract and Conference Poster or Presentation 5%

By 9 pm on Monday of each week that you do not have a literature Search, paper, or examination, you should e-mail me a weekly "Research Log" of your research progress for the prior week. Each log should be <u>a cut and paste</u> in an e-mail. You log should be dated and be cumulative. In other words, include the work of all prior weeks in each week's e-mail.

DRAFT SPRING SYLLABUS

- Jan. 21 Introduction to Spring semester. Discussion of expansion of draft pages into full disciplinary chapters. Parallel structure of chapters. Introduction to Harris and Strunk and White.
- Jan 28 Harris Chapters 1-6 including all exercises. All Harris exercises collected, either remove from book or photocopy for collection (5% of grade). Discussion of use of Strunk and White as resource. Continued work on Chapter 1 of paper. E-MAIL RESEARCH LOG DUE by 1/25/2010.
- Feb. 4 Romantz, Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5 including all questions at the end of chapters. [Note: print errata page from Romantz on Blackboard.] All Romantz questions collected. (5% of grade). Continued work on Chapter 1 of paper. Bring samples of work on Chapter 1 for peer group work in class. E-MAIL RESEARCH LOG DUE by 2/1/2010.
- Feb. 11 Completed disciplinary chapter 1 due (15% of grade). Note: submit 2 version of chapter 1, one demonstrating "track changes" and one clean copy. Include rubric as first page of submission.. Note: all chapter submissions include data management chart and chart of disciplinary insights. Individual conferences scheduled instead of class.
- Feb. 18 Discussion of Paper Introduction-and Abstract – read and print from Blackboard. Discussion of Research Conference and Journal.

Continued work on Chapter 2 of paper.

Bring samples of work on Chapter 2 for peer group work in class.

E-MAIL RESEARCH LOG DUE by 2/15/2010.

Feb 25 Completed disciplinary chapter 2 due (15% of grade).

Note: submit 2 version of chapter 1, one demonstrating "track changes" and one clean copy. Include rubric as first page of submission.. Note: all chapter submissions include data management chart and chart of disciplinary insights. Bring samples of work on Introduction for peer group work in class.

Mar 4 Introduction due (5% of grade) Recap of Part II of Repko text in preparation for writing integration chapter. Print integration chapter rubric which includes criteria for integration chapter—from Blackboard.

Mar. 11 **Individual conferences scheduled instead of class.** Bring revised outline for discussion of integration chapter including conflicts, finding common ground, integration and testing hypothesis.

E-MAIL RESEARCH LOG DUE by 3/8//2010.

Mar. 18 Spring break

March 25 Peer group meetings and discussion of integration chapter. Bring outline and sample pages.

Complete Abstract for Spring conference-poster or presentation E-MAIL RESEARCH LOG DUE by 3/22/2010.

April 1 Integration chapter due (30% of grade)

Include integration chapter rubric as first page of submission.

Class discussion of final paper.

April 8 Continue preparation of final paper.

Integration chapter returned in class.

Discussion of conclusions.

April 15 Final paper due (20% of grade)

[ATTACHMENT 9 – JURI496 Rubric Final Research Paper]

Final paper includes:

- ✓ Final paper rubric
- **✓** Table of Contents (including subchapters—from outline)
- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ 2 disciplinary chapters
- ✓ Integration chapter
- ✓ Conclusions **[not previously submitted]
- ✓ Unannotated bibliography
- **✓** Data Management charts
- ✓ Disciplinary insights chart

April 22 Research Symposium presentation in lieu of class. (5% of grade with Abstract)

April 29 Return of final papers. Discussion of papers and opportunity for publication.