

LGLS 89A: LAW & SOCIETY INTERNSHIP AND SEMINAR

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Summer 2024

Class Meeting: Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:40pm
Classroom: Remote/Zoom
Office location: Brown 318 or by Zoom at <https://brandeis.zoom.us/j/6305229841>
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday 12:00 pm or by appointment.

INTRODUCTION

This course is designed for students desiring hands-on experience working with the law. Through your work at your placement and in the classroom you will gain an understanding of how lawyers help their clients and what makes the profession unique. You will also gain an appreciation for the complexity of the law and evaluate ways that policy (and the systems that implement it) can improve.

TIME COMMITMENT TO PLACEMENT

You are expected to spend between **ten and fifteen** hours per week on internship-related work. While the majority of your internship work will be completed in person, some of your work may be completed during times outside of regular 9-5 business hours or remotely upon agreement with your supervisor. If your internship requires a commute, you may include your commute time in your weekly hourly commitment at your discretion. Each student should confirm the expectations of their supervisors. If you cannot complete your internship work due to illness, campus disruptions or other obligations, **you must notify your supervisor and me as soon as possible**. You will be expected either to make up the time or to make alternative arrangements with both your supervisor and me. Communication is essential!

CLASS ROUTINE, ATTENDANCE & EXPECTATIONS

We will meet as a class on the Tuesdays indicated in the course schedule. The purpose of classroom time is for students to share experiences and knowledge obtained at their various placement sites, and for instructor-led discussions on various topics related to the legal work environment. Students are expected to be present at assigned class meetings. Classes will not be recorded. Students should come to class prepared to provide a short presentation on the work they have performed at their internship. Class attendance is a factor in the participation grade for the semester. If you must miss class, you should communicate with me in advance if at all possible. If you are concerned about participation, you can reach out to discuss alternatives for demonstrating knowledge and contributing to the classroom learning.

Students will be required to post a “CHECK-IN” at a time designated on the syllabus. This is a written summary of the work you have been doing at your internship (being mindful, of course, of confidentiality rules). This is an opportunity to outline any concerns or challenges you may have, but should not take the place of regular communication with me! I can’t support you if I don’t know what is going on.

All assignments will be due via LATTE. Assignments are expected to be submitted by the due dates posted in LATTE. Meeting deadlines is a critical requirement in the practice of law. Work submitted late without prior approval and communication is subject to grade reduction.

There may be some fluctuation in the schedule to accommodate special events relevant to our discussions, the *Brandeis holiday schedule*, or as is determined necessary to address issues that arise during internships. *Our first class will meet on Tuesday, June 4, 2024.*

Brandeis University is committed to providing its students, faculty and staff with an environment conducive to learning and working, where all people are treated with respect and dignity. Please refrain from any behavior toward members of our Brandeis community, including students, faculty, staff, and guests, that intimidates, threatens, harasses, or bullies.

LEARNING GOALS

This course will help students meet the following learning goals:

Knowledge: develop critical awareness of the gap between the actual legal process and theoretical or popular descriptions; distinguish legal perspectives from related concerns; identify the complex roles of the legal advocate.

Skills: increase oral and written facility in expressing arguments under legal constraints, synthesize and evaluate information from diverse sources in competing philosophies, and communicating legal principles clearly. Develop networking and self-advocacy skills required to prepare for the job market.

Justice: grasp the challenges of reaching justice through the legal system; explore one's own justice commitments in current state and national problems; compare legal arguments and practices over time; contribute to the creation of a just society through legal advocacy.

COURSE MATERIALS

All course materials will be posted on LATTE. You will also be responsible for providing materials to share with the class on LATTE as they relate to your individual work.

GRADING STRUCTURE

This course has two major components: your course grade (60%), and your placement grade (40%). Your course grade includes my assessment of your efforts in class (including attendance and participation and short assignments (20%), your 8-12 page research project (30%), and your final presentation (10%). The placement portion of your final grade is based on your midterm and final evaluations by your placement supervisor, and, in some cases, my discussions with them about your performance.

STATEMENT ON DISABILITIES

Brandeis seeks to create a learning environment that is welcoming and inclusive of all students, and I want to support you in your learning. If you think you may require disability accommodations, you will need to work with Student Accessibility Support (SAS). You can contact them at 781-736-3470, email them at access@brandeis.edu, or visit the [Student Accessibility Support home page](#). You can find helpful student FAQs and other resources on the SAS website, including guidance on how to know whether you might be eligible for support from SAS.

If you already have an accommodation letter from SAS, please provide me with a copy as soon as you can so that I can ensure effective implementation of accommodations for this class. In order to coordinate exam accommodations, ideally you should provide the accommodation letter at least 48 hours before an exam.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

You are expected to be familiar with, and to follow, the University's policies on academic integrity. You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work and personal interactions both in class and at your internship. Please consult [Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities](#) for all policies and procedures related to academic integrity. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to

Student Rights and Community Standards. Sanctions for academic dishonesty can include failing grades and/or suspension from the university. Students may be required to submit work to TurnItIn.com software to verify originality. A student who is in doubt regarding standards of academic honesty as they apply to a specific course or assignment should consult the faculty member responsible for that course or assignment before submitting the work. [Citation and research assistance](#) can be found on the [university library website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Alex Rosett (arossett@brandeis.edu), Assistant Dean, Student Rights and Community Standards.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Library

The [Brandeis Library](#) collections and staff offer resources and services to support Brandeis students, faculty and staff. These include workshops, consultations, collaboration, materials and instruction on emerging trends in technologies such as machine learning, emerging trends in research such as data visualization, and emerging trends in scholarship such as open access. Librarians at the Circulation Desk, Research Help Desk, Archives & Special Collections, Sound & Image Media Studios, MakerLab, AutomationLab, and Digital Scholarship Lab are available to help you. <https://www.brandeis.edu/library/about/index.html>

Resources

Brandeis University is committed to supporting all our students so they can thrive. The following resources are available to help with the many academic and non-academic factors that contribute to student success (finances, health, food supply, housing, mental health counseling, academic advising, physical and social activities, etc.). Please explore the many links on this [Support at Brandeis](#) page (<https://www.brandeis.edu/support/undergraduate-students/browse.html>) to find out more about the resources that Brandeis provides to help you and your classmates to achieve success.

Teaching Continuity

In the event there are unanticipated disruptions to our regular class meeting, I will communicate a plan via LATTE as soon as possible.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Preparation for 6/4 class:

LATTE Complete “Administrative Form” - Final Placements google form.

Review Board of Bar Overseers: <https://www.massbbo.org/s/rules>

LATTE Skill Building Resources: Watch [LGLS 89a presents: How to Read and Understand a Case: The Supreme Court’s Recent Decision Striking Down Race as a Factor in College Admissions.](#)

Tuesday 6/4:

6/4 Course Introduction, Professionalism and Ethics in a Legal Workplace, Read & Understand Legal Opinions

Homework for 6/11:

Assignment: Setting Semester Goals

- (2) Updates to the Classroom Forum related to your internship**
- (2) Engage with comments in Classroom Forum**

Reading for 6/11:

Creating Trauma-Informed Services: Tipsheet Series *The Very Basics of Legal Interviewing* by Deborah Manville and
Chapter 13: Writing and Analysis in the Law – Interviewing the Client

Tuesday 6/11:

Interviewing Skills - Who, Why, What We Bring to the Table
Interviewing Activities
Centering the Client

Homework for 6/18:

Review “Skill Building Resources”: *Commonwealth v. Warren 475 Mass.530* and *Flight, Race, and Terry Stops: Commonwealth v. Warren* (this article is long, you can skim)
Larkin, Paul J, and David Rosenthal. “Flight, Race, and Terry Stops: Commonwealth v. Warren.” *The Georgetown Journal of Law & Public Policy* 16, no. 1 (2018).

- (1) Update to the Classroom Forum related to your internship**

Tuesday 6/18:

Legal Writing, Reading Cases and Legal Attribution, Citation, Case Brief
Internship Discussion
Discussion of Commonwealth v. Warren & Article
Review *Plain English Assignment*
How to find statutes

Homework:

****FIRST CHECK IN DUE FRIDAY 6/21****

****Plain English Written Assignment due on LATTE 6/23**
Oral Presentations in class 6/25

Tuesday 6/25:

Legal Research Tips – Research Librarian Aimee Slater
In Class Activity – Starting Points and Research Practice

In class activity: explore legal research methods

Oral Presentations in class 6/25

MIDTERM EVALUATIONS DUE FROM SUPERVISORS BY FRIDAY 6/28

Homework: LATTE Review legal research project instructions and Review Project Proposal Requirements.
Draft questions, brainstorm possible Interview subjects; Prepare 2-3 Paper /Project topics to workshop in class
Readings: LATTE Research Project Resources: *Helpful Tips for Your Research Project*

- (1) Update to the Classroom Forum related to your internship**

Tuesday 7/2:

Research Project Workshop

Discussion: Managing Conflict

Homework: Continue working on Project ideas, research for proposal outline, schedule one on one meetings if desired; Discuss possible interview subjects with supervisor.

Tuesday 7/9

Research Interviews & Making Connections

Homework: Complete Project proposals, Review Oral Presentation Assignment

****Project Proposals Due 7/12****

Tuesday 7/16:

Guest Panel

SECOND CHECK IN DUE FRIDAY 7/19

Tuesday 7/23:

Project Check ins, Problem Solving, Evaluating Sources

Homework: Complete & submit Oral Presentation Materials on LATTE
Continue work on Research Project; schedule meetings as needed.

Tuesday 7/30:

ORAL COMMUNICATION FINAL PRESENTATIONS

VISUALS FOR PRESENTATIONS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS! ALL STUDENTS MUST PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON CLASSMATE PRESENTATIONS!

Tuesday 8/6:

Cultivating Ongoing Professional Relationships, Wrap up, Evaluations

RESEARCH PROJECTS DUE Monday, August 12, 2024

****Internship database form due on LATTE**

FINAL EVALUATIONS DUE FROM SUPERVISORS BY FRIDAY 8/9