

*Cardozo School of Law*  
*Spring 2021*  
*New Course Descriptions*

**CONSUMER CREDIT SEMINAR**

**Professor:** Foohey

**Credits:** 2

**Pre/Corequisite:** None

This course will focus on critical issues regarding consumer credit and consumer law, in part through inquiries into key aspects of debt collection law and the consumer bankruptcy system. The course will discuss a range of consumer credit products, including mortgages, medical debt, student loans, auto loans, credit cards, and payday loans and other alternative financing. It also will consider consumer credit as contributors to people's bankruptcy filings and the role of attorneys and other actors in the consumer credit and bankruptcy systems. Readings will come from law and non-law sources, including law reviews and the work of a variety of social scientists. The course will discuss issues relevant to the legal system and the study of law generally, including the use of data to measure legal problems, the role of lawyers and non-lawyers, and the nature of modern policymaking. The course grade will be based on the submission of short written comments and questions about weekly readings, class participation, and a series of assignments that culminate with a substantial paper (15 to 20 pages). This paper may be used to satisfy a two-credit writing requirement.

**LAW AND WAR: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES**

**Professors:** Ingber

**Credits:** 3

**Pre/Corequisite:** None.

Does law continue to operate in times of war? This seminar will examine the knotty legal questions underlying current wartime debates, with a primary focus on modern conflicts facing the United States in the post-9/11 era. A complex architecture of international and domestic law governs states and state actors during wartime. Evolving threats, new technologies, and domestic politics have tested these legal frameworks, and the domestic and international laws of war continue to adapt to challenges to their relevance and viability. Topics for discussion may include, among others: Guantanamo detention, targeted killing and drones, interrogation and torture, humanitarian intervention in conflicts like those in Libya and Syria, and the scope of the U.S. President's constitutional and statutory authority to wage war.

## **LEADERSHIP FOR LAWYERS**

**Professor:** Greenberg-Kobrin/Leslie

**Credits:** 2

**Pre/Corequisite:** None

**Skills Credit:** Successful completion of this course will award two (2) credits towards the JD experiential/skills credit requirement.

From the moment they enter practice, lawyers are asked to take on leadership roles. They must make difficult decisions that require the weighing of law and strategy, explain the difference between the two to their clients, and persuade those around them of their judgments -- all while working in complex and dynamic groups. Ultimately, they move into positions of power that test their ability to lead others. In this course, we hope to pursue conversations that will prepare students for that task. In the wake of recent public health, social, financial, political, legal and other crises, the legal profession has come under significant scrutiny by those who wonder why the law -- and lawyers -- failed to stop risk-taking and unethical behavior that led to the crisis. Lawyers who are trained to provide wise strategic counsel, rather than merely narrow legal advice, are more likely to give the kind of balanced, ethical judgments to clients that will help prevent future crises of ethics, finance and faith in the law.

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This class aims to prepare students to serve as effective leaders. The class will use a combination of readings, project work, problem sets, case studies, and group presentations to give students exposure to the core competencies necessary to be a successful leader. We will begin by considering various approaches to management, collaboration, persuasion, and judgment. Because we believe that, in the future, effective leaders will need to have quantitative techniques among their skill set, we will then turn to key economics, finance, and accounting concepts. Next, we will consider the ethical, cultural and social considerations that an effective leader must master. Finally, students will study a wide range of issues at nonprofit and governmental organizations to develop leadership strategies that reflect the diversity of challenges future leaders are likely to face. Please note that class participation will be critical in this class and students should expect to contribute frequently. Grades will be based on individual assignments, a problem set, a final group project, and class participation.

## **PRESIDENTIAL DEMOCRACY**

**Professor:** Pearlstein

**Credits:** 3

**Pre/Corequisite:** None

The past four years have reinvigorated debates over the power of the presidency and highlighted significant weaknesses in the structural guardrails of democracy designed to protect it against authoritarian overreach. In this course, we will assess the current effectiveness of American democratic constraints on presidential power, including not only the traditional Madisonian structures of our constitutional government – Congress and the courts – but also other constraining mechanisms like bureaucratic norms, the popular electorate, and the free press. Drawing on recent and ongoing legal and political disputes, the course will explore whether and how structural democratic checks might be reformed to better withstand authoritarian, populist movements still acutely visible today in the United States, and around the world.

## **REAL ESTATE WORKOUTS**

**Professor:** Altman

**Credits:** 2

**Pre/Corequisite:** None

This course integrates real estate law, commercial law (UCC) and bankruptcy law in the context of commercial real estate. We examine properties in default on their loan obligations and how lenders and investors deal with the consequences. Students will learn about the structure of the US financial services industry and how different debt and equity players deal with real estate problems. Course format includes lectures and workshops where students will assume roles as: as owners, lenders, government regulators, and distressed debt opportunity funds. We will also cover legislative efforts during COVID to deal with foreclosure forbearance including the CARES Act. The sequence of the course is subject to change to allow us to include any new legislation Congress may enact during the semester.

## **INTERNATIONAL DATA PROTECTION**

**Professor:** Jedrzejowska

**Credits:** 2

**Pre/Corequisite:** None

This course covers privacy and data protection laws from multiple jurisdictions around the world, with a particular emphasis on Europe and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Students will learn when activities in one country potentially trigger the laws of another country, and what steps companies need to take to comply with GDPR and other global data protection laws.