Legal Innovations Lab

2-Credit Experimental Course: Legal Innovations Lab

Course Description: In this skills based course, law students will partner with LexisNexis employees to create new legal products and services. Students will propose and develop their own legal products and ideas while working alongside and receiving advice from LexisNexis experts. Students will learn first-hand the challenges that arise in developing and bringing new legal products to market.

Prerequisites: Students are encouraged to take LAW 6848 prior to or in conjunction with the Legal Innovations Lab.

Required Text/Reading: No required text (see syllabus below for assigned readings)

Grading: Option A
50% Final individual paper
30% Group presentation
10% Class participation
10% Blogging (about topics related to the course)

Course Structure:

The course is divided into 7 modules, which normally take 1-3 class sessions to complete. In modules 2-6 students will begin each module with a discussion of the assigned readings. Students will then examine how those readings apply to new legal products and services.

Throughout the semester students will work on developing their own product or idea. If a student is unable to come up with a new product or idea, one will be provided to him or her. At the conclusion of module 6, students will be broken into 3 groups of 3. The students within each group will then select which product or idea among the 3 to present to the class. In making the presentation to the class as a whole, each group must not only address the challenges and weaknesses of the legal product or idea, but also the barriers to entry into the market place.

Faculty: This course will be co-taught by a UDSL faculty member along with an attorney from LexisNexis. Also, each module will have a guest lecture from LexisNexis who specializes in the topic covered in the module.

Students: This course is open to both 2Ls and 3Ls. However, due to the nature of the course, students will be required to submit a one page letter of interest to the course instructor prior to enrollment. In that statement, students must discuss their reasons for taking the course. The course instructor will use the student’s statement of interest as the basis for determining which students to enroll.
**Course Rationale:** The reasons for this course are as follows: i) expose students to the transformative role of technology in the practice of law; ii) improve the students knowledge of how companies bring legal products to consumers; iii) stimulate and encourage students to become legal entrepreneurs.

At present, UDSL does not have any course similar to the Legal Innovations Lab. Adding this course strengthens our curriculum in the areas of business and technology. In addition, this course serves as an outlet for those students interested in shaping how the law is developed and practiced in the future.

**Sample Syllabus**

**Module 1: Overview**
-- Introduction to course requirements
-- Overview of modules 2-6
-- Students and LexisNexis sign proprietary agreements
-- Tour of LexisNexis headquarters

**Module 2: Legal Entrepreneurs and Innovation**


**Module 3: Technology in the Law School Classroom**


5. Oliver Goodenough and Marc Lauritsen, *Lawyering in an Age of Intelligent Machines* (LEXISNEXIS).

**Module 4: Delivery of Legal Services**
1. Chris Johnson, *Leveraging Technology to Deliver Legal Services*, JOLT, Volume 23, Number 1 (Fall 2009)


**Module 5: Examination of New Legal Models**


**Module 6: The Role of Big Data in the Practice of Law**


**Module 7: Student Presentations**