



COURSE DESCRIPTION - FACULTY OF LAW

COURSE NUMBER: LAW 486:X50 **COURSE NAME:** JURISPRUDENCE - The Emotions of Conflict and Justice

PREREQUISITE COURSES:

PREREQUISITE FOR:

CREDITS: 3 **HOURS PER TERM:** 3 **TERM:** 2nd **MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT:** 25

PROFESSORS: ANNALISE E. ACORN

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: LECTURE SEMINAR X OTHER

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

The **primary** method of evaluation in this course will be one 20-25 pages paper worth 70% of the grade.

Participation worth 30% of the grade

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course draws on philosophical, literary, biblical, legal and anthropological sources to explore the emotions of conflict and justice. Lawyers and judges often pride themselves on their rational objectivity and view their capacity to resist the emotional pulls of conflict as a badge of professional competence. We are aware, nonetheless, that both conflict itself, and our judgments about justice, are often, at bottom, driven by emotional responses. This course probes our understandings of the emotions in their relation to the dynamics of disputes and the substance of our judgments about justice and fairness. The course will address questions like: Are compassion and empathy essential elements of justice or does pity for one of other party to a dispute pervert the course of justice? How does resentment figure in people's emotional experience of litigation? Does the desire for revenge drive people's actions when they are in a dispute? Does revenge have a legitimate place in our understanding of justice? Is a person's sense of guilt or remorse a factor to be considered in our judgments about what they deserve by way of punishment? What is remorse and why does it have moral significance? Can justice ever rightly be conjoined with rage or anger? Or is justice necessarily emotionally neutral? Is it legitimate for the state to try to induce the emotions of shame in an offender as an element of punishment? What is the difference between jealousy and envy? How do jealousy and envy fuel conflict?

***SPECIAL COMMENTS:**

EVENING CLASS:

SPECIAL ATTENDANCE:

OTHER:

REQUIRED TEXTS (IF ANY):