



Certificate program in Legal Pedagogy and Instruction

A PROGRAM FOR CURRENT & FUTURE LAW PROFESSORS

LEARN LEGAL PEDAGOGY

Ohio Northern University's Pettit College of Law has created a unique learning opportunity for foreign law professors, as well as aspiring professors, that are seeking to enhance their skills and reform legal instruction at their home universities. Legal education in the U.S. is dramatically different than the majority of systems in the world, with little or no lecture in the law classroom, rather focusing on interactive teaching and learning methods. As a result, U.S. legal education has a reputation for developing students' critical thinking skills and better preparing them for careers as lawyers.



Recognizing the need to increase the capacity for critical thinking among law students worldwide, ONU created the Certificate in Legal Pedagogy and Instruction as a companion program to its LL.M. Program in Democratic Governance and Rule of Law.

CERTIFICATE COURSEWORK

While enrolled as students in the LL.M. Program in Democratic Governance and Rule of Law, students concurrently take classes to earn their Legal Pedagogy Certificate.

- 1. Seminar in Legal Pedagogy and Instruction:** This seminar examines the leading theories and methodologies of legal pedagogy in the U.S. and elsewhere. Students learn about course design, material selection, the use of interactive methods versus lecturing, experiential learning and simulations, teaching style, and integrating new teaching methods to large classroom settings. Throughout the seminar students discuss guided readings. This is enhanced with discussion of students' experiences as professors and academic staff in their home countries, and as students in the LL.M. classes—many of which are exclusively taught using interactive methods, discussion, and simulations.
- 2. Course Design and Delivery:** Taking place during the law college's January Term, students participate in the design and delivery of a course on a given legal subject. Students are assigned one day's worth of subject materials to teach (assigned during the fall semester's seminar), utilizing the instruction methods discussed during the fall seminar course. The professors then reviews and critiques the recorded class sessions, and the class discusses the effectiveness of the participants' teaching decisions. Students also design an assessment question and grading rubric to use during the final exam. Students anonymously grade their peers responses to their assessment as a part of this course



3. Legal Pedagogy Practicum: Students in the Pedagogy Certificate Program will be assigned a 'Faculty Mentor' from the ONU Law College based on mutual teaching interests and career goals. This mentor will be an experienced law professor at Ohio Northern, and will be an added resource for the student throughout the year of the program. Additionally, during the spring semester, the student will participate in the design and delivery of one class with their Faculty Mentor. Students will attend each class and regularly meet with their faculty member to discuss his/her approach to teaching the material. At the discretion of the faculty mentor, the student will participate with additional course design and delivery (for example, by assisting with preparing class materials, drafting assessment questions, grading, or participating in teaching a class or classes during the semester).



STUDYING IN THE LL.M PROGRAM AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Students' mastery of legal pedagogy is greatly enhanced by studying in the LL.M> Program in Democratic Governance and Rule of Law at ONU. Their experiential learning begins immediately. Because lectures are not used as a method of instruction in the law classroom, students are required to prepare readings or other material prior to classes, and engage in discussion or pointed questioning about the subject matter. These interactive methods, including Socratic questioning, are designed to enhance critical thinking skills of students while learning the law.



By studying under leading professors in the field of democratic governance and rule of law, with decades of combined teaching experience, students are given a background in how to incorporate critical thinking skills into their law school classrooms in their home countries. Courses in the Certificate Program draw from these students' experiences in their LL.M. Classes to enhance learning and pedagogical decision-making. During the first semester students have a series of 'Legal Pedagogy Lunches,' where immediately following a class session they engage in a discussion with their professors about how the class was conducted, and scrutinize and evaluate the effectiveness of teaching style, material used, and information conveyed. Further, because the majority of classes in the LL.M. program are comparative in nature, and not focused on the U.S. law, students are exposed to subjects and material they could one day teach at universities in their home countries.

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