

Suggested Guidelines for New Senior Research Seminars
Faculty Curriculum Committee
September 17, 2008

Last Spring, the faculty adopted this proposal from the Curriculum Committee:

In order to graduate, every JD student must take, in addition to LARC I, II, and III:

(1) a Legal Drafting elective approved by the Curriculum Committee on the basis of its syllabus as satisfying standards of rigorousness, or

(2) another Legal Writing elective, such as Judicial and Scholarly Writing, approved by the Curriculum Committee on the basis of its syllabus as satisfying standards of rigorousness, or

(3) a Senior Research Seminar approved by the Curriculum Committee on the basis of its syllabus as satisfying standards of rigorousness.
Enrollment in Senior Research Seminars will be capped at 20 students.
Except in unusual circumstances, only full-time faculty members should teach Senior Research Seminars.

Independent Study (course 428) will also satisfy the requirement.

On September 17, 2008, the Curriculum Committee voted to approve all existing Senior Research Seminars that satisfy the 2005 Senior Research Seminar Guidelines. In addition, the committee adopted the following language to provide guidance for faculty members proposing new Senior Research Seminars:

Subject matter – Narrow subject matter is encouraged so that the seminar can bring the students up to a high level of involvement in a relatively short period of time and so that the seminar can function as an advanced offering in its subject area.

Written assignment(s) – The work of the students should include one or more final written product or products. A significant proportion of the writing should be based on the student's own research. There should be extensive critique and rewriting of assignments. The instructor should have several individual conferences with each student during the semester regarding the student's written work. The students should produce not fewer than 35 pages (double-spaced) of writing in the course of the semester.

Release time – The instructor may choose not to hold regularly scheduled classes during up to three weeks of the semester if that time is spent on individual meetings with students concerning their work on assignments.