

**Law 6875: LAW, HEALTH & THE LIFE SCIENCES:
JOINT DEGREE PROGRAM PROSEMINAR**

Section 001

1 credit

Fall 2007

University of Minnesota Law School
Prof. Susan Wolf & Jordan Paradise

Wednesdays 12:15-1:10pm

Syllabus

Many of the most challenging issues of the 21st century are those at the intersection of law and the life sciences. How should we govern research, assess the safety and potential impact of new technologies, and regulate or even ban them? This seminar will explore those questions, examining a wide range of developments in health, environment, and the life sciences, such as sound science in law and policy development, dual-use technologies, health plan compliance, stem cell research and transplantation therapies, and end-of-life issues affecting the homeless. Brief weekly presentations will be made mainly by faculty drawn from graduate and professional programs affiliated with the Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & the Life Sciences. Each week 2 or 3 students will then lead off class discussion based on the presentation and assigned articles. This section is required for Joint Degree Program students who have less than 2 semesters of Proseminar experience and open to other students by consent of the instructors if space permits.

Materials. Students are expected to read the articles assigned for the first class on September 5, as noted on the schedule. Readings are designed to be short and provocative. A packet of readings for the entire semester will be available for you to purchase in the Law School Bookstore. We have limited the reading material this semester to 15-20 pages each week and have requested that speakers provide us with links rather than hard copy material. All readings that are available online have web links following the reference in the schedule. Those not available online are provided in hard copy in this coursepack along with all other articles that do not have a copyright royalty (or have a minimal royalty) for use and dissemination in hard copy. A number of readings available online are not included in this coursepack because of the royalty amount for use and dissemination in hard copy.

Course Requirements. The primary requirement for this course is class participation. This seminar will deal with a range of controversial topics at the intersection of law and science. Our classroom time will be devoted to wrestling with these problems with guest speakers. Each student will be expected to come to class, to have done the required reading in preparation, and to participate actively.

Students will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis for satisfactory participation.

Contacting the Professors. Susan Wolf is McKnight Presidential Professor of Law, Medicine & Public Policy; Faegre & Benson Professor of Law; Professor of Medicine; Director of the Joint Degree Program; and Chair of the Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences. Her office is in N140 Mondale Hall. Her phone number is 625-3406 and her email is swolf@umn.edu.

Jordan Paradise is an Adjunct Professor in the Law School; the Associate Director of Research & Education for the Joint Degree Program and the Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences; and an Associate in the Center for Bioethics. Her office is in N140 Mondale Hall. Her phone number is 625-2948 and her e-mail is paradise@umn.edu.

The assistant to Profs. Wolf and Paradise for the purpose of this course is Monica Wittstock. Her office is located in N140 Mondale Hall. Her phone number is 625-3482 and email is witt0265@umn.edu

Schedule and Assignments. The remainder of the syllabus details the schedule and assignments for each class session. At the first class session on September 5, students will sign up for 2 discussion leader positions for the remaining classes. There will be a total of 11 class sessions with discussion leaders, so there will be some class sessions with 3 discussion leaders.

For Fall 2007, we are trying a modified Proseminar format for Section 1. Speakers will present for 20 minutes rather than the 10 minutes allotted them last year. We have asked them to identify 3-5 core questions that their presentation will address. These will help frame the key presentation points and assist students in preparing to lead discussion following the presentation. These questions are provided in the coursepack along with the readings. There will be 2-3 discussion leaders for each class who will be asked to actively lead discussion. This will not be a question-and-answer session with the speaker; it will be a more interactive experience with the goal of maximizing student involvement. Discussion leaders will need to generate thought-provoking discussion topics in advance of class and be prepared to lead discussions among classmates and the speaker.

There will be 2 joint class sessions combining Section 1 and Section 2: September 19 and November 7. Each will feature a Section 2 student who will present on a topic in the standard Section 2 format--20 minutes to present followed by 35 minutes of discussion. The discussion will be led by the Section 1 discussion leaders assigned to that day. Any reading materials for these sessions will be provided two weeks in advance of class.

Note that class on October 31 will be devoted to the Lecture Series on Law, Health & the Life Sciences. Attendance at the Lecture Series is required. The October 31 Lecture Series presentation will feature Suzanne Hunt, M.S. (former Director, Worldwatch Institute BioEnergy Project) on the debates surrounding biofuels. The lecture will take place from 11:30am-1:00pm at a location to be announced. If you have a class conflict with part of the lecture time, please inform Prof. Paradise in advance and attend as much of the lecture as possible, consistent with going to class. Students will also be invited to a high-level lunch discussion following the Lecture Series presentation; attendance at the lunch is encouraged but not required. The lunch will be held from 1:00pm-2:00pm. Please RSVP as soon as you receive the lunch invitation by e-mail.