Innovation in Legal Education and Practice

Fall 2016
Tuesdays 5:00 - 7:00pm, Hauser 104 & Pound 201

Teaching Team

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Course Description

Students participating in our Innovation in Legal Education and Practice seminar will have the opportunity to work collaboratively in small teams to develop two innovative proposals to change the way law is taught or practiced. The first project, which you will present on the fourth class meeting, will address key challenges faced by legal educators, law students, and law schools. The second, presented at the end of the course, addresses key challenges practitioners and policy makers face as they seek to improve the legal profession and meet the needs of public and private sector clients and other stakeholders.

The course will begin with an introduction to innovation and brainstorming in small teams, team dynamics and preparing teams to innovate together successfully. The course will draw upon expertise from other disciplines around design thinking, including psychology and neuroscience. The goal is to understand what makes for well-functioning teams and how such teams can more quickly and more effectively reach innovative breakthroughs. To prepare students for potential careers as entrepreneurs, we will also help build students’ presentation and business idea/pitch skills. We will also introduce participants to a variety of legal entrepreneurs and thought leaders in a series of interactive discussions. To provide real-world context and feedback, team proposals and presentations will be “judged” by panels of HLS and outside experts with deep subject matter expertise and experience. Throughout the semester, faculty will introduce student teams to outside experts and resources who will be able to help them design their proposals and be valuable network contacts in the future.

Required Materials

Seminar materials will primarily consist of articles and book excerpts focusing on teams and innovation happening across the legal profession. All required resources, including electronic copies of the readings, will be posted on the class Canvas Assignment page. Students are expected to do the reading carefully and participate in class discussion.
Course Requirements

General Requirements: As a participant in the course you are required to:

- complete all individual and team assignments on time and participate fully in class
- attend every class on time, in particular because this is a team-based course and in-class exercises will include working with your team
- work in teams during and outside class time

Mandatory Attendance: Because this is a team-based course, you need to attend each class. If a family or health emergency or some other serious conflict arises, you must contact Professor Westfahl or another member of the teaching team in advance to discuss how we can resolve the conflict in the best way possible for you and your team. Once we have a plan in place, you need to communicate with your teammates in advance, as well. Missed or incomplete individual assignments, unexcused absences, and lack of participation in class or in your team will negatively affect your grade. If you add this class after it has already met, you are expected to complete any individual assignments assigned prior to your enrollment and catch-up on any missed team assignments.

IMPORTANT NOTE: in particular you need to make sure that you have no conflict with and will attend class on the dates when teams will present their proposals to our internal and external panels of judges. Those dates are **Tuesday, September 27th, Tuesday November 15th and Friday, November 18th** (3-5pm). Please notify the teaching team immediately of any potential conflict with those dates.

Assignments: In addition to assigned readings, key individual and group assignments will include:

- short answer responses to questions presented on forms available on Canvas (individual, assigned periodically during course)
- team presentations: one 15 min presentation (9/27), one 30 min presentation (11/15 or 11/18)
- team memos: one 5-7pg memo (9/25), one 10-12pg (11/13)
- one annotated bibliography (team - 11/13)
- final reflection memo (individual - 11/27)

*Due dates subject to change. NOTE: We may share your final presentations for teaching purposes with future classes, others at the law school, or people outside the Harvard community.*

Grades

Your engagement in this class is crucial for both your success and the success of your classmates. Accordingly, the breakdown your overall class grade is as follows:

- Class and team engagement: 40%
- Weekly assignments: 10%
- First project memo/presentation: 15%
- Second project memo/presentation: 35%

*Students who miss more than two assignments are not eligible for an H*
How to Get the Most Out of the Class: Every year we survey the students at the end of the course to solicit advice for future participants about how to get the most out of the class. Some of those suggestions include:

- Take the team kickoffs seriously – the time invested here pays dividends throughout the whole semester
- Spend more social time with the team as possible – make it fun, include food in meetings, etc.
- Be respectful of each other by committing to be on time and fully present for team meetings
- Plan well and have someone who manages deadlines, calendar and meetings so that the proposals don’t have to pulled together in a fire drill right before they are due
- Don’t shy away from the brainstorming process! It’s a lot more rewarding to work on a creative project.

Class Schedule

Sept 6: Course Kickoff and Introduction to Innovation
Sept 13: Working Effectively in Teams
Sept 20: Presenting Effectively as a Team
Sept 27: Presentation I
Oct 4: Debrief and Introduction to Project II
Oct 18: Legal Innovation: Problems and Solutions I
Oct 25: Legal Innovation: Problems and Solutions II
Nov 1: Legal Innovation: Problems and Solutions III
Nov 8: Legal Innovation: Problems and Solutions IV
Nov 15: Presentation II: Day I
Nov 18: Presentation II: Day II (3-5pm)*
Nov 29: Reflection and Celebration

*Please note that there is no class on Tuesday, November 22th
Detailed Syllabus - Most assignments due the Monday before class at noon

Assignments and due dates subject to change

9/6 Assignments
- “Sparking creativity in teams: An executive’s guide” - Maria M. Capozzi, Renee Dye, Amy Howe
- “IDEO Product Development” (HBS Case Study)
- Short video about IDEO
- Class Facebook survey

9/13 Assignments
- "Making Dumb Groups Smarter" - Cass Sunstein, Reid Hastie
- "Why Some Teams Are Smarter Than Others" - Anita Woolley
- "What Google Learned From Its Quest to Build the Perfect Team" - Charles Duhigg
- “HBS Note Leadership and Teaming” (HBS Case Study)
- “Google's Project Oxygen: Do Managers Matter?” (HBS Case Study)
- Description of your best and worst team experiences (200 words each)

9/20 Assignments
- Team Kickoff Workbook
- Individual reflection

9/27 Assignments
- Short video on Business Pitches
- Business Pitch handout
- Due Sunday 9/25 at midnight: 5-7 page, double-spaced memo
- Due Tuesday 9/27 by 4pm: final slide deck/prezi

10/04 Assignments
- Team Reflection Tool
- Individual Reflection

10/18 Assignments
- TBD - 2 articles or short readings
- Project Kickoff Tool

10/25 Assignments
- TBD - 2 articles or short readings
- 5 minute presentation on annotated bibliography
- Midterm survey

11/1 Assignments
- TBD - 2 articles or short readings
• Short video on Human Centered Design
• Final presentation draft

11/15 & 11/18 Assignments
• Due Sunday 11/13 at midnight: annotated bibliography; 10-12 page, double-spaced memo
• Due Tuesday, 11/15 at 4pm: final slide deck/prezi

11/29 Assignments
• Due Sunday 11/27 at midnight: Final reflection memo