**COURSE NAME:** Seminar in Gun Law & Policy

**COURSE NUMBER:** 792S

**PROFESSOR:** Allen Rostron

**ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES:** None

**DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES:** None

**COURSE BOOKS:** I have not made a definite decision about the reading assignments. We may use a book, such as Andrew McClurg, David Kopel & Brannon Denning, *Gun Control and Gun Rights: A Reader and Guide* (2002), or I may prepare a package of materials instead.

**METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:** The majority of the grade will be based on a test at the end of the course. We may also have some small assignments or quizzes during the course that will count as part of the grade.

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:** Few issues are more controversial than gun control and gun rights. In recent years, the Second Amendment has become a hot topic in constitutional law, with judges, legal scholars, and historians debating its meaning. At the same time, guns have become a major subject of debate in tort law, as a wave of suits brought against firearm manufacturers and sellers have pushed the limits of established theories of liability. This course will examine closely these constitutional and tort issues surrounding guns.

**RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:** The course will cover practical issues relating to litigation, particularly public interest litigation, including issues of professional responsibility, complex litigation strategies, settlement tactics, and techniques for evaluating and using historical evidence and empirical data in making legal arguments.

**RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MO/MULTI-STATE BAR EXAMINATION:** The course will cover some tort law tested on the bar exam, including negligence and products liability.