UMKC SCHOOL OF LAW COURSE DESCRIPTION Spring 2008

COURSE NAME: Immigration Law & Policy

CATALOGUE NUMBER: 8738P

PROFESSOR: Kris Kobach

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: None

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: Constitutional Law II

COURSE BOOKS: Required text, plus supplemental readings


METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE: Grades will be based on two factors: performance on a short multiple-choice exam administered during the final class session, and a short research paper (approx. 20 pages) on a subject of the student’s choosing. Grades may be adjusted upward or downward on the basis of class participation.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: This two/three hour course exposes students to the basics of immigration law procedures as well as to the most important questions of immigration law policy. Although the course covers both procedure and policy, the emphasis is on the latter. Immigration bills in Congress have been the subject of heated debate, particularly in recent years. However, to have a truly informed opinion on the subject, one must understand the history of immigration law in the United States, the statutory framework into which any new legislation must fit, and the legal process used to enforce U.S. immigration law. This course provides that historical, statutory, and procedural background. The subject matter is useful for the student who intends to practice immigration law, as well as for the non-specialist interested in immigration law as a policy matter.

COURSE CONTENT: See attached syllabus.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES: This course is very useful in terms of career preparation for the student who intends to practice immigration law, either for individual clients, for the U.S. government, or for public interest litigation groups in the field. It is also very useful in terms of career preparation for the student who intends to work for a state legislature or a Member of Congress. Beyond that, the elements of the course dealing with statutory interpretation and administration procedures may be relevant to the career plans of other students.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MO/MULTISTATE BAR EXAMINATION: Minimal.