COURSE NAME: Humanity, Emotion & the Law

CATALOG NUMBER: 8743E

PROFESSORS: Belian, Callister, Picker, Thomas

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: None

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE BOOKS:
Excerpts from cases, readings and other materials will be provided or available for purchase.

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:

Your grade will be determined as follows:
30% -- class participation, including the effort expended on the interviews and the presentations; and
70% -- An in-class “open-notes” essay, to be written during a 90-minute period on the Friday afternoon of the mini-term week.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
Too often the law is considered in isolation from the fundamental psychological characteristics of the people it regulates. These psychological characteristics include pride, loyalty, stubbornness, anger, passion, ethno-centrism, irrationality, compassion, jealousy, and love - in other words the full range of human emotions. These internal motivations frequently influence how we respond to the law, how we adjudicate, as judge or jury, how we handle client needs as lawyers, and how we make and enforce the law.

An understanding of the role of these emotions, these indicia of our humanity, will enrich one’s understanding of how the law actually functions in practice. This course considers the interplay between many of these emotions and the law by focusing on four different examples of these relationships from across the spectrum of the life and law: During Jury Trials, at the Death of a Human, in International Law and as a part of Economic Relationships.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MISSOURI BAR EXAM PREPARATION: None

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:
Without doubt, mastery or merely awareness of these pervasive issues will assist the future lawyer, judge or official in all aspects of their professional career.