COURSE NAME: Disabilities and the Law

COURSE NUMBER: 8815R

PROFESSORS: William Dittmeier, J.D.; Thomas O’Donnell, J.D.

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES:

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: Constitutional Law


METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE: Class participation plus a presentation of a key case or cases (20-30 minutes), and final exam.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: An interdisciplinary study of the law relating to the rights of individuals with disabilities in the areas of employment, education, and access to transportation, health, welfare and social services to provide an understanding of how the law affects people with disabilities and public and private entities. Legislation considered includes the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (including the 2008 amendments), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, The Family and Medical Leave Act, the Fair Housing Act, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The enrollment of graduate students from other disciplines, such as education, business and the health sciences, is encouraged to allow for interdisciplinary discussion of the topics involved. Guest lecturers with practical experience and expertise in issues being studied will occasionally participate in class.

COURSE CONTENT: Case Studies plus presentation by professionals who have expertise in relevant areas of study, i.e., special education, architectural access, transportation, employment, etc.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES: Course content will prepare students with basic understanding of the rights of people with disabilities to employment, transportation, public accommodations, education and housing. The amendments to the ADA that will become effective in January, 2009 will change who is covered by the Act and require new approaches and solutions to legal issues arising under the ADA. Familiarity with the ADA is relevant for employment in government, private practice, corporate settings or any business endeavor.