

Law 305.6 Clinical Law

(2020-2021 Full year 6 credit course – fall and winter terms (3 cu each term) Buhler)

(This is an application-based class. Number of students accepted will be made in consultation with CLASSIC)

Calendar description: A full-year course designed to provide students with practical, real-life legal experience and the tools to reflect critically upon this experience. Students enrolled in the course take on client files at Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City Inc. CLASSIC is a not-for-profit community legal clinic located at 123 20th Street East. Students provide front-line legal services in many areas of law, including criminal law, social assistance law, immigration and refugee law, residential tenancies law, human rights law, prison law and more. Students will gain skills and understanding in the areas of client interviewing and counseling, legal writing and research, file management, professional responsibility and advocacy before courts and administrative tribunals. Students are exposed to the complexities and demands of a real-life legal clinic and engage with the legal system on the level at which it actually operates. Students will also be exposed to issues and critical literature pertaining to poverty law, access to justice and the lawyering process.

NOTE: It is our intention for this course to be offered in-person. Therefore only students planning to reside in Saskatoon during both terms are eligible to apply. Public health guidelines will be adhered to at all times at CLASSIC. If the situation changes because of Covid 19 and students are unable to physically attend CLASSIC, the course will be offered remotely.

Entry into the intensive clinical law program is by application. Students who wish to be considered are asked to send an email to Professor Sarah Buhler, at sarah.buhler@usask.ca outlining the reasons for their interest in the course and describing any relevant experience. Students should also attach their cv or resume. The deadline for submission of the email application is July 7th, 2020. Applicants will be informed by July 9th of their acceptance in the program.

Purpose and Emphasis: The course is based on a model of experiential education, where students learn through experience, hands-on mentorship, and critical reflection on experience. The course is centred on students' clinical experience at CLASSIC, where they will assume carriage of client files in a variety of legal areas. Students are supervised on every step of their legal work at CLASSIC. In addition to substantive legal work, students may also have the opportunity to be involved in systemic advocacy projects or other projects relating to CLASSIC's work in the community. Students will gain the tools to reflect critically on their practice and their identities as future lawyers, and gain insights into the legal system from "the ground up".

Course materials: Selected materials will be made available to students.

Teaching and Assessment: Students will be expected to commit a total of 6 hours per week each term to CLASSIC, including time for a weekly or bi-weekly reflective group discussion to

be held on Friday mornings. The course is assessed on a pass/ fail basis. Students will be assessed based on specified clinical competencies and a clinical portfolio which will include a reflective journal. Students receive 3 cu each term.

Selection of students: The course is open to second and third year students, but preference will be given to students who have demonstrated an interest in or commitment to community service and/ or pro bono work.

Prerequisites: *Completion of first year law*