COURSE NAME: Discovery Practice in Civil Litigation

COURSE NUMBER: LAW 8522D

PROFESSOR: Andrea (Ande) McMurtry

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES:
- LAW 8521 Civil Procedure I
- LAW 8522 Civil Procedure II
- LAW 8621 Evidence

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES:
- LAW 8501 Contracts I
- LAW 8502 Contracts II

CATALOG DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
This course focuses on the various discovery techniques which are commonly used in federal civil practice, and also compares state procedures. General topics include the uses of discovery, informal discovery, building the discovery plan, ethical issues, privileges and protections, the discovery tools, electronic discovery, experts, motions to compel discovery, and sanctions.

COURSE BOOKS:
Skills & Values: Discovery Practice (2nd Ed., 2014)

MAJOR LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THIS COURSE:
- Combine and further understand the concepts related to discovery and evidence in Civil Procedure and Evidence courses
- Understand principles and develop practical skills related to written discovery and depositions
- Utilize discovery techniques to identify witnesses, develop testimony, and prepare for presenting and examining expert witnesses
- Recognize discovery disputes and the appropriate tools for resolution
- Recognize and address ethical issues during the discovery process
- Utilizing discovery in the resolution of the dispute, whether through settlement, alternative dispute resolution, or trial
METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:

There will be fifteen (15) written assignments, graded throughout the course, with a final project to be completed during the week of final exams, which will be worth 25% of the grade.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:

This course provides fundamental, practical skills and concepts related to the use of discovery in civil litigation, which comprises a significant proportion of a litigation attorney’s practice.