UMKC School of Law Spring 2013

**COURSE NAME:** Entertainment Law

**COURSE NUMBER:** 8890R

**PROFESSOR:** Kenneth D. Ferguson

**ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES:** None

**DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES:** Intellectual property law, negotiation and mediation classes

**COURSE BOOKS:**

**REQUIRED:** Melvin Simensky et.al, Entertainment Law, (3rd. ed. 2003) and Melvin Simensky, et. al., ENTERTAINMENT LAW, DOCUMENT SUPPLEMENT, (3d Ed. Matthew Bender 2003).

**RECOMMENDED:** None

**METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:**

Students will be required to write a paper on an approved topic that will be of publishable quality, counting for 2/3 of the course grade. There will also be an hour-exam, counting for 1/3 of the grade. Class participation and attendance are additional factors which are taken in consideration in determining a student’s final grade in the course. If a student is between two ½ grades, class participation and attendance will be considered in determining whether a student will receive a bump up to the next ½ grade.

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:**

The course will provide students a general survey of the legal principles and business customs and usages of the entertainment industry. The course will provide a comprehensive overview of the business and legal issues arising in the entertainment industry, including motion pictures, television, music, print publishing branches, and the production, distribution and retail sectors of each industry branch. Topics include: contract, labor, antitrust, copyright, trademarks and unfair competition, privacy and publicity rights, constitutional and contract law.

**COURSE CONTENT:**

Topics will include, among other topics, the structure of the Entertainment Industry, contract and intellectual property issues, protection of entertainment ideas, and trademark and unfair competition.
COURSE OUTCOMES:

Following completion of the course, students should be equipped with an understanding of how both prevent liability and pursue or defend contract, intellectual property rights claims and to negotiate and draft various industry agreements.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:

This survey course will introduce students to a broad range of legal issues in entertainment industry and will enable student to take concrete steps toward negotiating a legal career in Entertainment Law.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MO/MULTI-STATE BAR EXAMINATION: