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Course Evaluation Results » Spring 2014 » Thomson

Thomson - 4218 - Discovery Practicum - Spring 2014

11 students submitted evaluations for this course.

69% of the students enrolled in this course submitted evaluations.

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	Zero	One	Two	Four	Four +
1. Approximately how many times were you absent from this class since the beginning of the quarter?	10	0	1	0	0
	I wasn't absent	Time Conflict	Illness	Did not deem class attendance worthwhile	Other
2. What was the usual reason for your absence?	0	0	0	0	1
	Never	Rarely	Usually	Always	Other
3. Indicate how often, on the average, you read the assigned materials prior to classes.	0	0	3	8	0
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
4. This professor stimulated my interest in the subject matter of this course.	6	5	0	0	0
5. The assigned readings were valuable to my understanding of this course.	6	4	0	0	0
6. The professor covered the	9	1	1	0	0

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course material in depth.					
7. I found this course to be well organized.	9	1	1	0	0
8. The professor held my attention in class.	7	4	0	0	0
9. This professor is always prepared prior to class.	10	1	0	0	0
10. This professor was willing to assist me outside of class.	8	3	0	0	0
11. This professor was responsive to my questions.	8	3	0	0	0
12. This professor makes good use of class time.	7	4	0	0	0
13. This professor taught the class at a level that challenged me.	10	1	0	0	0
14. This professor effectively communicated the content of the course to me.	9	2	0	0	0
15. I would recommend to others that they take this course.	8	3	0	0	0
16. This professor motivated me to do my best work.	9	2	0	0	0
17. I was able to keep up with the work load for this course.	6	5	0	0	0
18. I would enjoy taking another course from this professor.	7	4	0	0	0

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Positive and Negative comments about the professor:	Positive and negative comments about the course materials:
professor thomson, is the man, and this course should be a must take because your learning a subject that may come in handy on day one of being a real lawyer.	the e-book thing is a good call, why waste money on cases we can look up for free.
Very well organized and extremely	The supplemental book was great, it's one

knowledgeable. It's just sometimes hard to stay attentive in such a long class

of the few law school books I will actually be keeping to assist me in practice. The online supplement, while often times helpful, sometimes seemed redundant. I found some of the court opinions to be the least useful, but understand the need for the legal groundwork in a class like this.

This was one of the best classes I have ever taken in law school. Other Professors should follow Professor Thomson's approach to teaching. Everyone should take this course. I went into this class knowing nothing about civil litigation or discovery and now I feel like I could confidently file or defend a civil lawsuit because of this course. We went through the steps of civil discovery from complaint to settlement. This class was a lot of work but none of it was busy work and everything we worked on was essentially a draft that I can use later in my career. I now have a template and an idea of how to draft these discovery documents. Professor Thomson was always open to questions and responded to emails quickly. The course was very well organized. I am surprised at how much I learned in this course. As a 3L about to graduate I appreciate that DU offers such a practical course.

The course materials were great. We did not have to buy some huge, ridiculously expensive book. We had one small book with very short chapters that helped us complete our assignments and then there were relevant cases and examples on the course website.

Professor Thomson is great. He is very kind and willing to help. He has so much knowledge about the Discovery Process and the format of the class is great and I wish all Law School courses were this practice-oriented. There are assignment due pretty much every week and you are assigned an opposing counsel. You exchange documents which prepare you to eventually take depositions, and arrive at a final settlement. This course is a lot of hard work, but it has been one of the most valuable classes that I have taken in Law

Professor Thomson wrote the book, and pretty much all of the materials are available on the course website. I really appreciated the format, because it cut down on costs and made it easy to access the course materials from pretty much anywhere.

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School. I would recommend it to anyone who wants to learn more about the discovery process.

Very good Professor. He obviously knows his stuff!

I enjoyed this class a lot. Its very work intensive, but I feel like it is super applicable. I would recommend this class.

Discovery Practicum was one of the best classes I've taken at the law school. Anyone interested in civil litigation should absolutely take this class! Prof. Thomson is an excellent professor--he's extremely organized, thorough, and kind. He did civil litigation practice for the Dept. of Justice, as well as in private practice, before becoming a professor. His practical experience working on cases with huge volumes of discovery is invaluable. We dealt with one case throughout the semester (a really interesting pharmaceutical failure to warn case) and learned more about the case each week as we conducted discovery. We did a practical discovery exercise every week, such as writing interrogatories, requests for production of documents, and requests for admissions. We kept a case file with all documents, just as we would in a practice. We wrote and conducted depositions, which were recorded by actual court reporters. We used the transcripts of the depositions and all the other discovery materials to prepare for settlement negotiations. We had one classmate with whom we exchanged discovery documents throughout the semester, and then negotiated with that classmate for a settlement. There is a significant amount of work each week, but every bit of it is practical and an example of the work we will do upon graduation. Because we do work throughout the semester, there is no final and the class ends before the last week of classes. I

I really enjoyed the course materials. Prof. Thomson's book covers a C.R.C.P. discovery rule in each chapter and gives specific instructions on how to best conduct the particular discovery tool at hand. We used the book in tandem with the course site through Lexis. Prof. Thomson provides cases, articles, practice tests, and exercises for each chapter. Prof. Thompson also provided case folders, which we added to each week. In addition to conducting discovery, we played the part of a witness and had a case file related to that. I strongly recommend students take this class.

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recommend this class without reservation. Prof. Thomson has put together the most valuable practice-ready type of class I've ever taken.

Professor Thomson is great! I really enjoyed the Discovery Practicum and I highly recommend this class to other students. I was not interested in civil litigation before this class, but Professor Thomson sparked my interest in practicing this type of law. No matter what, I will use aspects of this class when I practice law. I loved the hands-on approach, instead of just reading cases. I am shocked at how much I learned in this class. This was the first class in law school that made me feel ready to practice law. Professor Thomson was very knowledgeable about the material and had very interesting stories to tell every class. Professor Thomson was always available to meet with me and responded to my emails very quickly. Thank you for a great semester!

I thought that the professor did a good job with the course. The discovery rules are sort of dry, but I thought that the semester long project and the interactive style of the class kept it interesting.

I really enjoyed the book for this course. The reading was very short and directly related to the class. Since the reading was lighter, I was able to spend much more time completing assignments each week.

I would say that it would help to go over everything a little bit more at the end of class maybe about the notebooks and what should be in them. I know that that is probably a little like teaching a middle school class, but sometimes I had to send emails to other students just to ask what was due. I am not saying the projects have to be changed, just that I personally could have used some more hand-holding I guess about what was actually supposed to be in the folders at what time and when exactly everything was due. I have found that most of my law school classes were sort of the same. It was like, "here is the syllabus", figure it out. But it would be nice to have a reminder at the end of class like "Hey, this is due next week, or your presentation is next week."

Something like that.

Professor Thomson is a wonderful

The course materials were great.



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professor. He deeply cares about his students. He brings this passion to his teaching and it makes for a very enjoyable experience. The class was very instructive and hands-on about the various discovery tools. By completing them throughout the semester, I feel that I have learned some very tangible skills and also feel very confident going into a real world environment. I also not learned only about the discovery process and how to use the various tools, but I also learned about the value of developing my professional identity. I would highly recommend this class. And it is a great way to complete your upper level writing requirement in a manner that is different from what you learned in Lawyering Practice.

Professor Thomson wrote the book and he knows it inside and out. The chapters were easy to read and were also very informative by providing you with an overview of the discovery rule and tips to approach the discovery tool. I also found the online materials to be very helpful in order to see examples of the assignments we were completing.

Professor Thomson is a great teacher. Discovery issues are not interesting to most, but he made it interesting. He gives you PLENTY of hands on assignments, and he encourages you to ask questions. I thought the class was going to be boring to be honest. But I had more fun in this class than in any of my other classes to date. He understands that practical experience is essential for preparing to actually practice law. I worked at a firm for almost a year, dealing with all kinds of discovery issues, and I learned things in the 4 months of class that I never would have known/learned working at the firm. This is a MUST TAKE class. Professor Thomson taught it like a boss!

Course material was easy to understand and very useful for each weeks assignments. We had assignments due every week. The reading and assignments combined would take about 2-3 hours per week (not bad at all!) This class took care of the upper level writing requirement, and exposed us all to taking and defending depositions as well as all the discovery rules and issues. Also, there is no written final. You and your "opposing counsel" got together for a settlement conference. I thought it would be stupid, but there were a ton of twists that made it interesting and educational! I loved the material and thought it was a very well thought out problem set.

Overall a great Professor! However, I would have liked a little more guidance on how to gob about completing the assigned projects. It's good that you want us to wrestle with the material and become independent thinkers and attain practical discovery skills, but sometimes extra help may be in order; like at the beginning of the course for instance, when some of us

The course material was okay, although some of the chapters spoke in very general terms and did not offer much extra guidance--which I felt like I desperately needed sometimes!! Sorry I am an "animal who learns by example," if you pardon the expression. Also, the expectations of what the readings were unclear at one point when the readings

did not even know what an i-n-t-e-r-r-o-g-a-t-o-r-y was. Thanks!

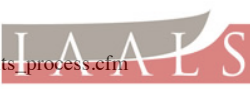
were not listed as required under the folders on Blackboard (this might be LexisNexis' fault) or did not comport with what was listed on the syllabus (just a minor technical mini-fail). Furthermore, I felt like having us write file-memo's for every assignment was a bit much. After filling the first page with my reflections on the "ethical struggles" I faced in drafting a discovery document the "ink" usually ran out. I just don't think there's much to ponder about when 1) the document being drafted is based on pre-fabricated and quite limited facts, 2) you are not dealing/interacting with an actual client or actual people, and 3) the assignments are very similar and often present the same "ethical dilemma." Overall great course though, I would definitely take it again!!

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