

LOYOLA COLLEGE OF LAW
LAW CLINIC
CLINICAL SEMINAR L897
TECHNOLOGY & LEGAL INNOVATION
SPRING, 2017
Time: Thursdays 3:20 - 5:00

Prof. Judson Mitchell
Room 305, Clinic Building
(504) 861-5597 phone
(504) 250-4853 cell
jmitchel@loyno.edu
Office Hours M-Th 1-3pm or by appt.

Course Goals and Objectives: This one-semester course in emerging technologies in the practice of law aims to introduce you to the latest thinking about how technology is transforming the legal profession. Although you will learn many currently relevant technological skills, this class really endeavors to train you in the process of “computational reasoning”: the discipline and practice of breaking real-world problems into manageable algorithms that a computer can understand and process.

Be warned that this is not a lecture class. You cannot come to class, passively sit and listen, and expect to get anything valuable from it or do well in terms of your grade. Each class will involve working on a particular problem or skill, either alone or in groups with other students. The work you do in class will serve as a basis for your subsequent assignments, so your presence and active participation in class are absolutely necessary.

Grading: Your final grade will be determined as follows:

- *Completion and Timeliness of Assignments* (40%) - All assignments should be done thoroughly and demonstrate that you have done the best work possible.
- *Presence and Participation in Class, Time Spent Out of Class* (30%) - Much of our work is going to be done during the class period. Rather than traditional lectures, our class will be focused on working together to learn basic skills and solve legal technological problems. It is therefore very important that you attend and actively participate in each class. You will also be required to log your hours working out of class (approximately 15 hours a week) on ClinicCases.
- *Creativity in Identifying and Solving Problems* (30%) - Over the course of the semester, you should develop abilities to analyze legal problems in computational terms. Your grade in this area depends upon how creative you are in applying these skills and the level of effort that you put in to the work. This will largely be assessed by your work in your final project (below).

What You'll Need: You will need to bring a computer to every class. You will also need an account on [ClinicCases](#) in order to log the amount of time you work in this class. It is likely that you will need a small amount of money (\$75 or less for purchasing a domain and a virtual server). If this is a problem for you, please let the instructor know and arrangements will be made to help you.

Assignments: Every assignment you are responsible for will be posted [on our site](#) at

<http://loyolalawtech.org/assignments/>. Please check it regularly as you are responsible for anything that may be posted.

Projects: Each of you will be asked to participate in one or more final projects for the year. The substance of the projects will be discussed in the first class. You will be asked to work with a group on the project and your final grade will reflect your degree of participation and contribution to the project's success.

Getting Help: Many of the things you will learn this semester will be completely new to you. You will be challenged and quite possibly frustrated on a regular basis. Do not hesitate to contact me for help. My office hours are listed above and I am available during almost all waking hours on Google Hangouts under the username judsonmitchell@gmail.com. Also, don't be afraid to consult programming help websites like [Stack Overflow](#). You will find that, whatever problem you're having, many others have had it as well and that a solution is likely well at hand.

If you want me to help you debug your code, please post your code on [JSBin](http://jsbin.com) (<http://jsbin.com>) and then share the relevant link with me.

Subject Areas: Because our progress through the semester will depend upon how well and quickly students master individual skills and concepts, there is no set schedule. Remember to check the Assignments page on loyolalawtech.org to find out what we will be working on next. Our work, however, will focus on four main areas:

Setting Up and Maintaining a Web Server

You will learn to configure a standard Linux-based web-server, set up your domain name, configure DNS, and install WordPress to begin a web-site.

HTML, CSS, Javascript

You will learn these fundamentals of the modern web. HTML and CSS are vital skills for presenting information to users. Javascript will be your introduction to programming languages in general and will be very useful to you in our subsequent work.

Working with Data

We will focus on how data is retrieved, structured, and analyzed. We will work with data in spreadsheets, JSON, and (time permitting) mysql formats.

Cryptocurrency and the Blockchain

We will learn about emerging blockchain technology (e.g, bitcoin) and consider ways this technology can and will be applied to the legal profession.

Legal Problems as Computational Problems

At this point, we will look at different ways in which the skills you have learned can help you to solve real-world legal problems for clients and to achieve, hopefully, a deeper understanding of potential of technology in the legal process. We will propose and then

begin working on tech projects. To learn more about past students' projects, please see <http://loyolalawtech.org/projects/>

If you have special needs (alternative testing, etc.), please contact the Director of Disability Services, in the Academic Resource Center in Marquette Hall, room 112, [504-865-2990](tel:504-865-2990).