Foundations of Law Syllabus, August 2011
Matthew L.M. Fletcher, 405B Law College, 432-6909, matthew.fletcher@law.msu.edu

Required Course Materials
• TRACEY E. GEORGE & SUZANNA SHERRY, WHAT EVERY LAW STUDENT REALLY NEEDS TO KNOW: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LAW (Aspen 2009)
• Supplemental Reading Materials, available at http://www.law.msu.edu/immersion

About the Course. The primary focus of this course is to provide new law students with an introduction to the study of law, including a refresher on the structure of the American legal system and how different jurisdictions relate to each other, exposure to legal reasoning and how arguments are formed in the law, and a first look at a number of fundamental legal-theoretical concepts.

Class Time and Location. This class meets two times each day between Monday, August 22, and Wednesday, August 24. The exact time and location is listed in the Immersion Week schedule. Some classes will be held in the fourth floor of the law school. Others will be in the business college across Shaw Lane from the law college.

Office Hours. I will be in my office during the noon hour on each day of this course (except when I’m lunching with students). The exact time may vary with the course schedule, but you should be able to stop by and find me sometime during lunch. Please do come by if you have questions or even just to say hello.

Attendance, Class Participation, and Punctuality. You are required to attend all sessions of this class to receive credit for participation. An attendance sheet will be circulated at the beginning of each class. By signing the attendance sheet you attest that you attended the session.

Preparation for class will facilitate your ability to use class time productively. I will call on you and expect you to be prepared when I do.

Grading and Exam. The final exam on Thursday, August 25th will consist of a pass-fail reflective essay that I will grade. While you will not receive a letter grade for the exam, completion of the exam is a requirement for graduation. After the exam essay, you will also complete an evaluation of the course and the professor. The exam will be one hour, and you are required to take the exam on a laptop computer.

Computers. Some professors recommend against using a computer for taking notes in this class. I am agnostic on the subject, but I sure wouldn’t use a computer to take notes if I was a law student. If you choose to bring a computer to class, you may use it for note taking purposes only. All other uses are strictly prohibited.
**Reading Assignments**

Please read page 1-180 of Tracey E. George & Suzanna Sherry, What Every Law Student Really Needs to Know: An Introduction to the Study of Law before August 22. The text combines an introduction to law school methods with a great deal of substantive material. You do not need to memorize the text or do the exercises during this reading.

- The designation “G&S” in the assignment table refers to the textbook.
- We usually will not be reading full case opinions. For this reason, please get the edited versions of the cases off the Immersion Week Website.

Class 1 (August 22 AM – B-School)  
G&S (pp. 1-180)  

Class 2 (August 22 PM – Law College)  
Review G&S Chapters 2 & 3  
Immersion website materials: *Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe*, 435 U.S. 191 (1978) (read everything from the beginning to the start of Part I, or pages 1101-1104)

Class 3 (August 23 AM – Law College)  
Immersion website materials: *The Bar License Problem*

Class 4 (August 23 PM – B-School)  
Review G&S Chapter 5 and pages 166-74  

Class 5 (August 24 AM – Law College)  
Review G&S Chapter 5

Class 6 (August 24 PM – B-School)  
**Legal Knowledge Game!!!!**