BANKING (BKGL)

BKGL 0206. FINANCIAL ANALYSIS AND VALUATION. (2 Credits)
This course helps students understand how firms communicate through financial statements. The course is designed for students who want to obtain an introduction to the business and legal implications of financial analysis and accounting. The successful student will obtain a grasp of financial analysis and the significance of such issues to corporations. We will use the tax law, anti-trust, and SEC reporting as windows to apply accounting factors to the legal impact of financial analysis to corporate reporting and transactions. Students will not need any prior accounting course work or experience.

Attribute: LL.M.

BKGL 0213. BANKING LITIGATION. (3 Credits)
Banking litigation is an enormous field. In 2013, The Wall Street Journal described global banks as facing a legal tab greater than $100 billion resulting from litigations “tied to the mortgage meltdown, the financial crisis and the rate-rigging scandal.” This course deals with these topics and others, as well as legal trends and disputed issues in banking litigation. The goal of the course is to prepare students for a career involving banking litigation, whether at a law firm or in-house at a global bank. Some other topics covered include service of process on international banks; jurisdiction as applicable to international banks; New York’s separate entity doctrine and the current split among courts regarding its ongoing validity; legal issues relating to electronic fund transfers; foreign and domestic banking secrecy acts, including litigation regarding the banking regulatory privilege and the confidentiality of SARs; litigation regarding sanctioned entities; litigation implicating foreign sovereigns; and litigation involving Know-Your-Customer requirements.

This course will also consider recent trends of Anti-Terrorism Act litigation focusing on international banks, and the problem of litigation arbitrage (where banks are forced to confront conflicting discovery and confidentiality requirements). The course will include guest speakers from leading international banks and private practice, providing opportunities for students to meet and discuss these issues with practicing attorneys. This is a skills course open to both JD and LLM students. Professors Geoffrey Sant and Lanier Saperstein.

Attributes: LAW.B, LID.R.

BKGL 0224. REGULATION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. (3 Credits)
The Regulation of Financial Institutions focuses on the regulation of financial institutions and financial markets. It will address the regulation and supervision of banks, securities firms, insurance companies and other asset managers.

Attributes: BFE, CRCP, JD, LAW.B, LL.M.

BKGL 0291. FINANCIAL SERVICES REGULATION. (2 or 3 Credits)
This course (taught in real time) is held in seminar form where participation by students is encouraged and expected, and should be of particular interest in view of the frenzy of activity in the recent array of Federal legislative and regulatory initiatives and market developments that are taking place in the Financial Services Industry (“FSI”) which has not been seen since the New Deal years in the 1930s. Throughout the summer and early fall of 2008, each week saw the demise and/or consolidation of one or more significant players in the banking, securities and insurance industries as Wall Street (as we knew it) died. All of these important events will be discussed in detail from both a legal and financial perspective, including The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (“EESA”), Treasury’s Troubled Asset Relief Program (“TARP”) and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (“Dodd-Frank”) which became law on July 21, 2010.

In addition, the class will discuss the new regulatory and related initiatives developed in Congress and the many new rules, regulations and studies required by Dodd-Frank. At the conclusion of this course, each student should have a clear understanding of what and why events occurred (which should be valuable in the employment interview process). The FSI includes the banking, securities, insurance and related industries. Regulation of the FSI was significantly changed on November 4, 1999 with the enactment of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Services Modernization Act (“GLB”) and the extensive rules and regulations issued thereunder, which modernized our FSI and abolished most of the outdated restrictions which existed. We initially will discuss a number of these developments, particularly as they relate to the recent and current changes in the regulation of the FSI since the early summer of 2008. These will include: the pre-2009 Federal regulatory structure, including Treasury’s March 2008 proposed “Blueprint” for regulatory change; the roles of Treasury, the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Financial Stability Oversight Council, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and other regulators; government sponsored enterprises and their involvement in the creation of the “toxic” mortgage crises that played a role in the development of our current financial crisis; the main “players” in the FSI and their regulators; the various mergers, acquisitions and other combinations that occurred; the various legislative and regulatory initiatives to restructure our FSI regulatory system culminating in the negotiation and passage of Dodd-Frank; the current regulatory agendas to strengthen our Federal regulatory system, including the increased emphasis on capital, liquidity and risk, and reaching the ultimate goal that no financial entity is “Too Big To Fail”; the current legislative and regulatory impact resulting from the new Trump administration and Congress; and other related issues.

In order to round out the course, one class will involve the review and analysis of a large bank’s annual report by a major accounting firm partner, and another covering the view from inside a major bank by its chief operating officer.

There is no required prerequisite for this course, although some familiarity with our FSI would be helpful. While there is a take home final examination, a paper (which may be used to satisfy the writing requirement) is required.

Attributes: COR.C, CRCP, LAW.B.
BKGL 0311. FINANCIAL INSTITUTION: BANKING. (3 Credits)
The relationship between banks and other financial services institutions will be examined in this course, along with bank and bank holding company powers, restrictions and abilities to enter new fields. The course will review the laws affecting commercial banks and thrift institutions, the functions of the various federal and state regulatory agencies, the development of innovative forms of financial services, the effects of electronic technology upon banking law and interstate banking. You cannot take this course if you have taken Financial Institutions I.
Attributes: BFE, CRCP, LAWB.

BKGL 0312. INTERNATIONAL BANKING. (2 or 3 Credits)
This course examines the legal and regulatory framework governing foreign banks in the United States and U.S. banks abroad. The course has seven main parts. First, basics of banking, and why countries regulate banks. Second, international capital standards and other standards that banks must meet to operate outside their home countries. Third, the U.S. regulatory framework for U.S. banks operating abroad. Fourth, the U.S. regulatory framework for foreign banks operating in the United States. Fifth, international lending, including the problems banks face when foreign governments default on their debts. Sixth, international deposit-taking and letters of credit. Seventh, the conflicting demands posed by U.S. anti-money laundering laws and foreign bank secrecy laws.
Attributes: BFE, CRCP, ICE, LAWB, LAWI.

BKGL 0330. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS BANKING. (3 Credits)
This course focuses on federal regulation of banking, particularly regulation aimed at keeping banks financially sound. It examines the evolution of U.S. banking, banks' financial structure and special vulnerabilities, the process for forming or acquiring banks, the businesses in which banks can and cannot engage, safety and soundness safeguards (e.g., net worth requirements), affiliations between banks and other firms, deposit insurance, bank failure, systemic risk, and regulators' authority to examine banks and take enforcement action against unsound practices.
Attributes: BFE, CORC, CRCP, LAWB.

BKGL 0332. FINANCIAL INSTITUTION: NON-BANKING. (2 to 3 Credits)
This course examines nonbank financial institutions and the regulatory framework in which they operate. The course gives particular attention to insurance companies and SEC-registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds). It also examines hedge funds, private equity funds, and investment advisers.
Attributes: BFE, CORC, CRCP, LAWB.

BKGL 0402. FUNDAMENTALS OF PRIVATE EQUITY FUND FORMATION. (2 Credits)
The course will bring the student through the legal preparation, negotiation and closing of a private equity fund. The course will include teaching the fundamental regulatory and compliance aspects of forming a private equity fund, including Investment Company Act of 1940 exemptions, Securities Act of 1933 private placement exemptions and Investment Advisors Act of 1940 compliance. During the course of the class we will prepare draft terms for a new private equity fund, draft disclosure materials for the fund, including select sections of a private placement memorandum, including risk factors, investment track record, and securities law implications and conflicts of interest disclosure. Students will also help draft select provisions of the definitive fund documentation including provisions of a limited partnership agreement on the basis of the proposed terms in the private placement memorandum. Students will also participate in the negotiation of the final legal and business terms of the new fund. In addition, the underlying reasons for institutional investors seeking certain terms in private fund investments will be explored, and the drive for investors to align their investment interests with the interests of the fund sponsor and general partner. The course will conclude with an overview of the fundamental economic and legal terms of the private fund sponsor entities, including the general partner and investment manager.
Attribute: LLM.
Prerequisite: (SCGL 0417).

BKGL 0602. PROFESSIONALISM - UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. (1 Credit)
This course, taught in collaboration with faculty from Fordham's Gabelli School of Business, will examine the fundamentals of the three primary financial statements that public companies provide. After an introductory overview, the course will delve deeply into financial statements to show the relationship between these statements (for example, how net income impacts equity on the balance sheet), what can be learned about companies from their financial statements (such as price/earnings ratios and other types of ratio analysis), and the significance of notes to financial statements. Take-home exam.

BKGL 0615. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT REGULATION AND COMPLIANCE. (2 Credits)
This pragmatic course will compare how investment advisers' obligations to registered investment companies (such as mutual funds) differ from obligations to private funds (such as hedge, private equity and real estate funds). Students will explore relevant duties (and available exemptions) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Advisers Act of 1940 and other federal acts, rules and regulations. Topics covered include SEC registration, disclosure, custody, valuation, affiliate transactions, governance, leverage, compliance manual and code of ethics. Guest speakers from regulatory agencies, the investment management industry and private practice will provide practical insight. Active class participation is expected.
Attributes: CORC, CRCP, LAWB.
BKGL 0694. PRIVATE FUNDS: HEDGE FUNDS AND PRIVATE EQUITY. (2 Credits)
This introductory course to legal, business and certain regulatory issues related to private funds will cover core concepts in private equity funds, hedge funds, hybrid funds and other highly negotiated structures in the private investment world. The course will cover domestic, offshore and cross-border structures, the key legal issues for management companies advising private funds and the allocation of risk between investors and managers. The course curriculum will include some focused work on key economic elements of the private fund structures, including those related to performance compensation, as well as selected topics in fund taxation. Guest lecturers with specialist backgrounds and knowledge will supplement the core curriculum.
Attribute: LLM.