Spring 2014 Syllabus

International and Foreign Law Research

Assigned Meeting Time: Wednesday, 3:20 to 5:00 pm HST

This course is taught primarily in an online environment. Your assignments will be delivered digitally in the form of videos, podcasts, online discussion boards and CALI lessons. We will meet face-to-face during class time in limited circumstances. These dates are indicated in the syllabus.

Professor Vicki Szymczak

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Room 102, Law Library (behind circulation desk)

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:30 to 3:15; Monday 12:00 to 1:00 (Please call or email ahead of time to make an appointment if possible, or if you cannot see me during these hours.)

Faculty Support Specialist:

Garid Faria, lawlibry@hawaii.edu / 808.956.9560

Outside Room 102, Law Library (behind circulation desk)

Before coming to Class 1, please read James G. Apple & Robert P. Deyling, *A Primer on the Civil Law System* (1994 - 1995), pp. 3-39. It is posted on your course web site. This will be the longest reading assignment of the semester, and it will give you some insight into the different legal systems in the world and how they work. It is slightly dated, but highly relevant.

Class #	Topic	Assignments
Class 1	Introduction to the class	BEFORE Jan. 22, 2013:
Jan. 15		Commit to a foreign jurisdiction and
(In class)		legal system you will research for your oral
		presentation. Identify the country and
		provide a couple of sentences about why
		you chose that country. Drop this in the
		course drop box for my review.
		2. Enter a post on the course discussion
		board about your experience either finding
		an international law topic to research, or
		selecting the country you have decided to

		research.
Class 2	Foreign Law Research	1. Take the CALI lesson titled:
Jan. 22	Part 1	Introduction to Foreign Legal Research (30
(online)		minutes)
		2. Watch the video for Foreign Law
		Research Part 1.
		3. BEFORE Jan. 29:
		a) Consult the Foreign Law Research
		worksheet on your course page. Use the
		worksheet to guide your initial research
		steps. This does not need to be handed
		into me; it is meant to remind you what of
		what basic information should be provided
		when you do your oral presentation for
		class. As such, it will take you more than
		one week to answer all the questions.
		b) Access and use the Foreign Law
		Research libguide > Starting Points to
		answer the questions on the worksheet.
		2. BEFORE Jan. 29, enter a post on the
		course discussion board about your
		research (which tool was most useful and
		why, what materials have you found, what
		looks promising so far).
Class 3	Foreign Law Research	1. Take the CALI lesson titled: How to
Jan. 29 (online)	Part 2	Research Foreign Constitutions.
(orinic)		2. Watch the video for Foreign Law
		Research Part 2.
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		3. Continue your research for your oral
		presentation.
		a) Review the Constitutional resources for
		your country.
		4. BEFORE Feb. 4, enter a post on the

		course discussion board about your research for this week. What tool did you like, what was useful? Why?
Class 4 Feb. 5 (online)	International Organizations	 Take the 2 CALI lessons titled: Intergovernmental Organizations & Non-Governmental Organizations and Regional Organizations Watch the video on International and Nongovernmental Organizations. BEFORE Feb. 11, identify any regional organizations your foreign jurisdiction had joined.
		4. BEFORE Feb. 11, enter a post in the course discussion board about any current events regarding any of the regional organizations that your country is a party to. If your country is not a party to any regional organizations, see if you can find out why they have not joined, or which ones they might join.
Class 5 Feb. 12 (Online)	European Union	 Take the CALI lesson titled: Supranational Organizations: The European Union Watch the video on the EU. BEFORE Feb. 18: Schedule a meeting with your professor to go over your outline for your oral presentation. BEFORE Feb. 18, watch the six short
		videos on creating libguides that are linked on your course page.

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		5. BEFORE Feb. 25: Advise me of the
		international law topic you would like to
		research. Drop it in the course drop box.
Class 6	LibGuide Workshop	1. BEFORE Feb. 25: Watch the video on
Feb. 19		sources to help identify an international
(In class)		law topic. Advise your professor of the
		topic. Place it in the drop box on the
		course page.
Class 7	Oral Presentations	If you cannot attend because you are off
Feb. 26		island, we will Skype or conference you in.
(In Class)		Attendance is mandatory.
Class 8	Oral Presentations	If you cannot attend because you are off
March 5		island, we will Skype or conference you in.
(online)		Attendance is mandatory.
Class 9	Basic International Law	1. Read: Mansell & Oppenheim,
March 12	Research and Sources of	International Law: A critical introduction
(online)	Law	(2013), pp. 17-27 – VI Why it is necessary
		to identify sources of international law
		(book is on course reserve)
		2. Watch the video on Sources of
		International Law.
		3. Watch the video on Basic International
		Law Resources.
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		4. BEFORE March 12, start researching
		your international law topic. Enter a post
		on the course discussion board analyzing
		the resources you consulted and the
		research you were able to do.
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		5. Recommendation: Begin entering this
		information on your libguide.
Class 10	Treaties	1. Watch the video: Introduction to
March 19		Treaties
(online)		
		2. BEFORE March 19:
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		Consult the resource list and worksheet for this class. Use the list and worksheet to identify treaties that control your international topic. 3. BEFORE March 19, enter a post on the course discussion board about your treaty research. Comment about the treaties that control your international law topic. For example: Are there any commentaries or treatises you would recommend? Which if any resources did you find useful or not useful? Are there other resources you used that were particularly helpful for your treaty research? Is the U.S. a party to the treaty or treaties that focus on your topic? Are there any treatises you would recommend beyond any existing commentaries? 4. Recommendation: Enter this information on your libguide or commit it to a written outline.
Class 11 April 2 (online)	The United Nations	 Complete the CALI lesson on U.N. Research (45 minutes). Watch the video: U.N. Research
		3. BEFORE April 2, identify U.N. documents, publications, bodies, entities, institutes, programs, etc., that are relevant to your international law topic.
		4. BEFORE April 2, enter a post on the course discussion board about your treaty research.

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		For example:
		Do you have recommendations for
		searching U.N. materials? What is difficult
		or easy about this type of research? What
		current or past activities taken by the U.N.
		or its subsidiary bodies are relevant to
		your international law issue?
		5. Recommendation: Enter this
		information on your libguide or commit it
		to a written outline.
Class 12	International Court of	1. Complete the CALI lesson on Finding
April 9	Justice; Tribunals and	International Court of Justice Opinions (20
(online)	Truth Commissions	minutes)
		2. Complete the CALI lesson on Tribunals
		and Truth Commissions (45 minutes)
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		3. Watch the video: Finding International
		and Domestic Case Law
		4. BEFORE April 9, enter a post on the
		course discussion board about your case
		law research.
		For example:
		Does international or domestic case law
		influence your area of research? What
		resources were helpful for you to locate
		cases about your topic? Are there other
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		resources you used that were particularly
		helpful to find cases about your
		international legal issue? Are there key
		cases that are routinely cited in your area
		of research?
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		5. Recommendation: Enter this
		information on your libguide or commit it
		to a written outline.

Class 13	Sources of Customary Law	1. Complete the CALI lesson on Customary
April 16		International Law (30 Minutes).
(Online)		
		2. Watch the video: Customary Law
		Sources
		3. BEFORE April 16, enter a post on the
		course discussion board about how
		sources of customary law have influenced
		treatment of your topic, if at all.
		4. Recommendation: Enter this
		information on your libguide or commit it
		to a written outline.
Class 14	Putting it Together	1. Watch the video on Sovereignty Under
April 23		International Law.
		2. BEFORE April 30, make an appointment
		with your professor to review your
		libguide.
April 30	Final Review	
(in class)		
May 7	Final guide is due at 6:00	
	pm	