RESEARCH IN FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONAL LAW LAW584-001-12C

Fall 2012

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Syllabus

Course Description

This course will familiarize students with the basic sources in international law and the national law of key foreign jurisdictions, and help students develop the necessary skills to efficiently research transnational legal questions. Students will learn how to find international treaties, decisions of international tribunals, United Nations and European Union documents, and legislation and court decisions of selected common law and civil law countries. International trade, human rights and foreign constitutional, environmental, intellectual property and tax law research will also be singled out for special attention. As much as possible, the emphasis will be on English language materials and reliable online sources for foreign and international law.

The format will be 60% lecture, 40% participatory. The course will be graded credit/no credit. To meet the course requirements, students must complete four short (1- to 2-page) assignments consisting of questions designed to provide practice with the resources presented in class (10% each), and a final paper (8 to 10 single-spaced pages) describing a sample research problem in international or foreign law relevant to the student's interests, and detailing the research steps and resources the student found most useful in addressing that problem (50%). There will be no final exam. Because successful completion of assignments will depend upon demonstrating familiarity with the resources and skills introduced and practiced in class, attendance is mandatory and will constitute 10% of the course credit.

No prerequisites are needed for this course. The course is strongly recommended for journal editors, for participants in the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition and other international competitions, and for students considering careers in international law.

Schedule

Classes will meet twice a week, on Monday and Wednesday, from 3:00 pm to 4:20 pm in Tanenbaum 345.

Week 1: Introduction to Foreign, International and Comparative Legal Research; Public International Law

Monday, September 10: Course Overview; Research Strategies, Starting Points, and Commonly Used Sources

Wednesday, September 12: Introduction to Public International Law; International Treaties

Week 2: Public International Law (cont.): Private International Law

Monday, September 17: Introduction to Public International Law (continued); Decisions of International Courts and Tribunals

Wednesday, September 19: Private International Law; International Arbitration Worksheet 1 distributed

Week 3: International, Regional and Non-Governmental Organizations

Monday, September 24: Upper Division Courses Canceled; No Class but Worksheet 1 due

Wednesday, September 26: United Nations and International Non-Governmental
Organizations (NGOs)
Worksheet 2 distributed

Week 4: International, Regional and Non-Governmental Organizations (cont.); Introduction to Foreign Law Research

Monday, October 1: European Union, Council of Europe and Regional International Organizations

Worksheet 2 due

Wednesday, October 3: Introduction to Foreign Law Research Worksheet 3 distributed

Throughout the week: <u>Individual meetings to discuss and approve topics for final paper</u>

Week 5: Foreign Law Research (cont.)

Monday, October 8: Research in Common Law Jurisdictions Worksheet 3 due

Wednesday, October 10: Research in Civil Law Jurisdictions
<u>Worksheet 4 distributed</u>

Week 6: Foreign Law Research (cont.); Research in Special Topics

Monday, October 15: Research in Mixed, Religious, and Other Jurisdictions; Comparative Law Research Worksheet 4 due

Wednesday, October 17: Constitutional Law; Human Rights and Humanitarian Law; Environmental Law

Week 7: Research in Special Topics (cont.); Conclusion of Course

Monday, October 22: International Trade; Intellectual Property; Tax Law

Wednesday, October 24: Additional Special Topics (To Be Determined According to Student Interests); Course wrap-up

Monday, November 26: Papers Due