Instructor: Lyonette Louis-Jacques  
Office: D’Angelo Law Library, Room 207  
Telephone: 773-702-9612  
Email: llou@uchicago.edu

Course Meetings: Wednesdays, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
Classroom I

Course Description: The purpose of this seminar is to enhance students’ knowledge of foreign, comparative, and international legal sources and to develop their global legal research skills. The seminar will cover the basic categories of legal research in depth and with a focus on practical skills and efficiency, including locating constitutions, legislation, treaties, cases, decisions of international tribunals, documents of international organizations such as the EU, UN, WIPO, and the WTO, and secondary sources. This seminar also will address a series of practice areas such as comparative corporate law (focus on cross-border practice areas), comparative constitutional law, international intellectual property, international criminal law, international trade law, international environmental law, and international human rights, focusing on the substantive resources and practical research skills for each. It will also highlight gaps in international legal research resources and techniques for bridging them. Upon successful completion of the seminar, students will expand their understanding of research resources in a variety of areas, will improve their skills in using international legal research tools, and will develop extensive research knowledge in at least one area from their work on a final research paper.

Grading: The final grade for this course will be based on:

- Class attendance and participation: 10%
- Research assignments: 30%
- Research paper: 60%

The course is for two credits.

Course Texts: Students should not purchase a text for this course. Course readings will be largely drawn from the following texts, which are all available in the Reserve Room in the D’Angelo Law Library. Required readings and additional resources will be posted on Chalk. Students should read the week’s required readings before the class meets. Other readings are optional supplementary material that students may find helpful.

*International and Foreign Legal Research: A Coursebook*  
Marci Hoffman and Mary Rumsey  
D’Angelo Law, Reserve Room, Call number: XXK85.H64 2012

*International Law Legal Research* (International Legal Research Series)  
Anthony S. Winer, Mary Ann E. Archer, and Lyonette Louis-Jacques  
(Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2013)  
D’Angelo Law, Reserve Room, Call number: XXKZ1234.W565 2013
Attendance and participation
Students are expected to attend and participate in class. Students will also be required to complete the required readings for each week and complete and submit in-class exercises to fulfill the class participation requirement for the course. A student who has an emergency situation and is not able to attend class should notify the instructor of the circumstances.

Classroom computer use
There will often be in-class research exercises that require using online resources, so students should bring their laptops to every class. The wireless network will be activated during class, and students will be able to join the “Lawschool_Classroom” wireless network with the following information:

Username: alr@uchicago.edu
Password: n1usp

Problems? Help Desk at 4-5300 or HelpDesk@law.uchicago.edu

Research assignments
Assignments will be distributed most every other week at the end of class and be due at the beginning of the next class. There will be a total of four research assignments. Two completed research assignments are required for students earning two credits for this course. If a student completes more than two research assignments, the two highest scores will count towards the final grade. Students should individually determine the answers submitted on his/her research assignment. However, each student may choose one research partner to work with on an assignment. Students may consult the instructor outside of class for assistance with research assignments. The instructor will accept late assignments for up to 24 hours after the class in which the assignment is due. However, the instructors will reduce the total points credited on late assignments by 50%.
**Research paper**

The research paper discusses how to research a narrow area of law. It is not a paper about the law. Rather, it is a paper about researching the law in a specific area. It should be an exhaustive and evaluative discussion of research strategies and results demonstrating the knowledge and skills gained by the student during the course. The paper explains to the reader how to successfully find all resources on the topic and provides a roadmap for doing so. As part of the paper, each student will provide a cost report of their time spent researching, including use of online databases. The instructor will provide more detailed information about the requirements for the research paper and the cost report in a separate document. The research paper should be approximately **10-15 pages** in length.

Each student must obtain approval of the topic for their research paper from the instructor. Topics may address any area of law of interest to the student. The topic should be sufficiently narrow to cover in the length of the paper but broad enough to demonstrate the student’s ability to use a wide range of sources. **Students should submit a brief description – no more than one paragraph – of a proposed topic no later than [Week 4, April 16].**

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**Week 1: March 27** ASSIGNMENT #1 AVAILABLE AT END OF TODAY’S CLASS

**TOPICS:**

- **Course Introduction**
- Basic Concepts & Tools
  - The Language(s) of Foreign, Comparative, and International Law
  - Legal Systems
  - Publication of Foreign and International Legal Materials
  - Gaps in Foreign and International Law
  - English Translations
  - Introductory and Background Sources
  - Secondary Sources (books, journal articles, and more; “doctrine”)
  - Social Media (Listservs, Blogs, Twitter, Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn, etc.)

**REQUIRED READING:**

*Hoffman/Rumsey*, pp. 3-26, 45-78, 137-165, 225-229.

*Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals* (via HeinOnline, video playlist)
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTzlZcP8bL4&list=PLTJD117gWw-CMHt7kDrfHMG-MOP22sJnCu](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTzlZcP8bL4&list=PLTJD117gWw-CMHt7kDrfHMG-MOP22sJnCu)

**FURTHER READING/VIEWING:**

“The Rios Montt Genocide Trial in Guatemala” (ASIL video, 1:08:18)
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwkRJxiiWUA&list=TLij3QPnlClqDvE9Kwye7N_bcLDJhxMJh](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwkRJxiiWUA&list=TLij3QPnlClqDvE9Kwye7N_bcLDJhxMJh)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GwlRqy3Zfc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GwlRqy3Zfc)
Week 2: April 2

ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE AT TODAY’S CLASS
ASSIGNMENT #2 AVAILABLE AT END OF TODAY’S CLASS

TOPICS: Constitutions
- Foreign Constitutions
- Common Law: England and Wales, Australia, South Africa, India, Kenya
- Civil, etc.: Germany, France, China, Mexico, Netherlands, Hungary, Russia
- English Translations
- Amendments & Updates
- Current & Historical Constitutions
- “Constitutions” of International Organizations
- Constitutional Courts & Their Decisions, Constitutional Review

Comparative Constitutional Law

REQUIRED READING:

“Changing Constitutions: All Shall Have Rights: Latin America’s Politicians Fiddle Far Too much with Their Constitutions,” The Economist, March 15, 2014


FURTHER READING/VIEWING:

Tom Ginsburg, “The Influence of the U.S. Constitutions on Other Countries” (2:24)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDYwDDp3wME

.................., “Constitutions as Products” (1:22:56)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XeHZraZJqv8

.................., “An International Court for Constitutional Law” (1:22:56)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnfwjN9Fk3U

Week 3: April 9

TOPICS: Research Strategies (selected topics)
**Guest Lecturers:** Margaret Schilt, Todd Ito
- Effective Web Research
- Database Search Techniques
- Next Generation Search Engines
- Cost of Legal Research
- Non-Legal Research in the Practice of law
- Practice Specialty Resources: Litigation and Transactional
- Dockets/Trial Resources / Forms/Drafting Resources
- Citation Management
- Legal Citation Form
- Writing the Research Paper
REQUIRED READING:

*Hoffman/Rumsey*, pp. 27-41 (Effective Web Research)
*Hoffman/Rumsey*, pp. 225-229 (Introduction to Researching International Topics)

FURTHER READING:

*Bluebook* (skim Rule 20 (Foreign Materials), Rule 21 (International Materials), Table T2 (Foreign Jurisdictions), Table T3 (Intergovernmental Organizations), and Table T4 (Treaty Sources) pages)

**Week 4: April 16**

ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE AT TODAY’S CLASS
RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC PROPOSAL DUE AT TODAY’S CLASS
ASSIGNMENT #3 AVAILABLE AT END OF TODAY’S CLASS

**TOPICS:**

Introduction to the Sources of International Law
Treaties and International Agreements: U.S.
  - Bilateral
  - Multilateral
  - By Topic/Subject
Non-U.S. Treaties
  - By Topic/Subject
  - English Translations
“Travaux Préparatoires”/Drafting History/”Legislative History”
Protocols & Status Information
Customary International Law
Generally Recognized Principles
Judicial Decisions (covered in detail in Week 5)
  - International Court of Justice
  - International Criminal Court, ICTY, ICTR
  - International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
Scholarly Writings

**Special Topics**
Law of the Sea; Laws of War/Use of Force; International Criminal Law

REQUIRED READING:

*Hoffman/Rumsey*, pp. 81-134.

FURTHER READING/VIEWING:

“The American Approach to Treaties” (ASIL video. 1:31:28)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiCbK_gGqEg&list=TLij3QPnLCIqDveE9Kwye7NbcLDJhxMjH

*Hoffman/Rumsey*, pp. 249-256 (International Criminal Law)

“International Criminal Law” (Gail Partin, ASIL ERG)
http://www.asil.org/sites/default/files/ERG_CRIM.pdf
“International Humanitarian Law” (Joan Policastri & Sergio D. Stone, ASIL ERG)
Week 5: April 23

**TOPICS:** Judicial Decisions

**Guest Lecturer:** Anne Abramson (John Marshall Law School Library)

- **International Courts & Arbitral Tribunals**
  - European Court of Human Rights
  - ECOWAS Court of Justice
  - Inter-American Court/Commission on Human Rights
  - African Court of Justice and Human Rights

- **Foreign Cases**
  - Common, Civil, Customary, and other legal systems
  - Case Reports/Recent Cases
  - By Topic/Subject
  - English Translations
  - “Citators”/Noting-Up/Case Updates

**REQUIRED READING:**

*Hoffman/Rumsey*, pp. 231-328 (focus on the jurisprudence sections), 329-338.

**FURTHER READING:**

- ASIL Electronic Resource Guide (ERG): International Human Rights
- ASIL Electronic Resource Guide (ERG): International Humanitarian Law

Week 6: April 30

**ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE AT TODAY’S CLASS**

**ASSIGNMENT #4 AVAILABLE AT END OF TODAY’S CLASS**

**TOPICS:** Introduction to International Organizations

- **Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs)**
  - United Nations
    (legal bodies/related agencies: ILO, IMF/World Bank, WHO, WIPO)
  - Supranational Organization
    - European Union
  - Regional Organizations
    - African Union
    - Council of Europe
  - Organization of American States (OAS)
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Associations, Institutes, etc.

REQUIRED READING:


“United Nations” (John Heywood, ASIL ERG)

“European Union” (Marylin J. Raisch, ASIL ERG)

ASIL Electronic Resources Guide (ERG): International Organizations

FURTHER READING/VIEWING:

“Careers in International Organizations” (ASIL video, 1:29:56)
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SpsvjVQXKE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SpsvjVQXKE)

Week 7: May 7  
ASSIGNMENT #4 DUE AT TODAY’S CLASS

TOPICS:  
Legislation
- Foreign Codes, Statutory Compilations, Official Gazettes, Regulations
- Common, Civil, Customary, etc.
- By Topic/Subject
- English Translations
- “Legislative History”
- “Citators”/Noting-Up Legislation

Comparative Contract Law
Private International Law (UNCITRAL, UNIDROIT, Hague Conference)

REQUIRED READING:

*Hoffman/Rumsey*, pp. 146-151 (Legislation)

“Private International Law” (Don Ford, ASIL ERG)

Week 8: May 14

TOPICS:  
International Arbitration & CISG Dispute Settlement

REQUIRED READING:

*Hoffman/Rumsey*, pp.301-314 (Private International Law)

FURTHER READING/VIEWING:

“Careers in International Arbitration” (ASIL video, 1:34:11)
D’Angelo Law, Reserve Room, Call number: XXKF390.B8F75 2010

Hernando Otero and Omar García-Bolívar, “International Arbitration between Foreign Investors and Host States” (GlobaLex, April 2014, UPDATE)

http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/International_Arbitration_Foreign_Investors_Host_States1.htm

**Week 9: May 21**

**TOPICS:** International LGBTQI Rights / Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law
(with a focus on international human rights issues)

**REQUIRED READING:**

*Hoffman/Rumsey*, pp. 231-248 (International Human Rights)

“SOGI in International Human Rights Law” (IntLawGrrls, 2012)

“Sexual Orientation and Human Rights” (University of Minnesota)
http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/edumat/studyguides/sexualorientation.html

ASIL Electronic Resource Guide (ERG): International Human Rights
http://www.asil.org/sites/default/files/ERG_HUMRTS.pdf

**FURTHER READING:**


“Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and International Human Rights Law”
http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4a783aed2.pdf (ICJ, 2009; see also SOGI page)

*[September 29, 2014] RESEARCH PAPER DUE (May 19, 2014 for Graduating Students)*