Final Paper: Research Project in Foreign or International Law (50% of final grade)
Due Monday, November 26, 2012 at 5 p.m.

Each student will be required to complete a final paper describing a sample research problem in international or foreign law, detailing the research strategy the student devised to address the problem, discussing the steps of the research process undertaken, and outlining the resources the student found most useful in addressing the problem. The paper should clearly demonstrate the student’s critical thinking skills with respect to both the research problem and the process of foreign and international legal research.

This paper will constitute 50% of the credit for the course.

Students are free to choose any topic of personal interest or relevance to their related coursework, journal or clinic participation, or outside activities, but all topics must be approved by the instructor in individual conferences during the week of October 1, 2012. Students are encouraged to re-visit topics previously explored, provided they can show updated research and analysis sufficient to meet the requirements outlined below.

Structure

To successfully complete this assignment, the student must complete the following steps:

1. Describe the research problem to be addressed.
2. Propose a step-by-step research strategy, including an assessment of the student’s current knowledge (or lack thereof) of the issues and sources surrounding the problem.
3. Discuss the student’s implementation of the research strategy, including analysis of any unsuccessful directions requiring modifications of the strategy as well as the more successful steps taken. This section should also include an evaluation of the time spent on each step of the process.
4. Briefly describe how the student answered the research problem, including an annotated list of the resources the student found most helpful.
5. Deconstruct the research process, evaluating which strategies worked best and which didn’t, and how the student would use the experiences gained this time to address a similar problem more efficiently and effectively in the future.

Format

The above steps must be completed in no less than 8 single-spaced pages and no more than 10 single-spaced pages, in a standard 11- or 12-point font. All citations should comply with the requirements of The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (19th Edition).