I. Instructor Contact Information --

Instructor: Meredith Capps, Foreign & International Law Librarian/Lecturer in Law
Office Phone: 615-875-2860
Office Number: 142D, Library (take the stairwell past the copier/printing room one level down)
E-Mail: meredith.a.capps@vanderbilt.edu

Office Hours: I am generally in the office M-F, 8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Students are encouraged to schedule appointments by email to ensure that I am in my office when they prefer to meet, but please feel free to stop by without a set appointment.

II. Course Description——

This course introduces students to concepts and skills used in transnational legal research. This course will build upon basic legal research skills and expose the student to information sources utilized by researchers in conducting transnational legal research. Both primary and secondary authority will be covered in various formats. The course will focus on advanced methodologies and strategies for transnational legal research. Research topics will include treaties & international agreements, customary international law, international tribunals, international organizations, foreign law, private international law, international arbitration, and other related topics. Recommended for students interested in international legal practice, members of the Jessup Moot Court team, and the 2L staff of the Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law.

III. Learning Outcomes --

This course has the following learning outcomes:

1) Substantive Law
   Explain international legal frameworks, and major sources of foreign and international law.

2) Legal Skills
   a) Apply law to new factual scenarios.
   b) Conduct legal research.

IV. Assessment--

This course is graded on a Pass/Fail basis.

Learning Outcome 1 will be measured through in-class participation and skills performance on class assignments.
Learning Outcome 2a will be measured through in-class participation, skills performance in class assignments, and demonstration in the final project.

Learning Outcome 2b will be measured through in-class participation, skills performance in class assignments, self-evaluation, and demonstration in the final project.

V. Course Materials--

1. Required Materials
     Available online in West Academic, which is free to you as a Vanderbilt student; there is a print copy available on Reserve.
   - Articles/chapters as assigned (see Course Schedule).

VI. Requirements--

A. Attendance Policy:
   Regular class attendance is required. Excessive absences may result in automatic withdrawal from the course, exclusion from the final project with a failing grade, or a reduction in grade, all at the discretion of the faculty member involved.

B. Laptop Policy:
   Students should bring laptops to class to conduct research for in-class assignments online. Laptop and cell phone use should be limited during lecture and discussion portions of class. If laptop use during these times proves to be a significant distraction, students will be required to close their laptop during lecture and discussion.

C. Grading Breakdown:
To pass the course, you must achieve 66% or higher, with grading weighted as follows:

30%: Attendance & In-Class Participation (Discussion & Exercises)
   - A sign-in sheet will be distributed at every class session.
   - Attendance is mandatory; contact the instructor if you need to miss class for any reason. If you need to miss class, you will be required to complete and submit that week’s in-class exercise to avoid point deduction.
   - 4% points will be deducted for any classes missed that are not excused.

30%: Six Post-Class Assignments, each weighted 5% of the total grade, distributed after classes 1-6.
   - Post-class assignments for the subsequent will be posted to Brightspace immediately after each class.
• Assignments will be due at 12:00 pm (noon) the Wednesday before the next class, and should be submitted via the Brightspace Course Page. Grades for these assignments will be added to Brightspace no later than one week after submission.

• 1 point will be deducted for every 12 hours an assignment is late, absent instructor permission.

• Each assignment involves two research questions related to the week’s topics, in addition to a brief reflection (one to two paragraphs) on your experience researching the problems.

• All assignments should be saved as Microsoft Word Documents with the file name formatted as LastnameFirstinitial_TLR_Assignment#.doc (ex. CappsM_TLR_Assignment1.doc), with the student’s name in the header of the document.

• Answers should be typed in a color other than black.

• We will spend the first few minutes of each class discussing the previous week’s post-class assignment. Individual feedback may be provided along with a grade in Brightspace.

40%: Final Project

• The final project will consist of a research memorandum and report for a hypothetical legal problem involving transnational elements. Projects should be submitted in Blackboard by Friday, October 11th at noon. Grades for the assignment will be posted by October 24th at noon. Students will present a brief overview of their project to the class during Class 7.
<table>
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| Class #1 August 22nd | Course Overview  
Introduction to Foreign, International, and Comparative Legal Research  
Treaty Research | Int’l Legal Research in a Nutshell, Ch. 1, 2 & 4.  
Skim *Treaties and Other International Agreements: The Role of the United States Senate*, available at in HeinOnline and on gpo.gov. | Due by noon on Wednesday, August 28th. |
| Class #2 August 29\textsuperscript{th} | International Courts and Tribunals  
Customary International Law  
Research Strategies and Best Practices | Int’l Legal Research in a Nutshell, Ch. 5 & 6.  
Ryan M. Scoville, *Finding Customary International Law*, 101 Iowa L. Rev. 1893 (2016). (Available in HeinOnline) | Due by noon on Wednesday, September 4\textsuperscript{th}. |
| Class #3 September 5th | Private International Law  
RALPH H. FOLSOM, PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LITIGATION AND ARBITRATION (2016). (Available in West Academic) Ch. 1 & 3 (can skim conventions). | Due by noon on Wednesday, September 11\textsuperscript{th}.  
Final Project topics submitted by e-mail by noon on Wednesday, September 11\textsuperscript{th}. |
| Class #4 September 12th | International Organizations:  
Intergovernmental Organizations (focus on United Nations)  
Non-Governmental Organizations | Int’l Legal Research in a Nutshell, Ch. 8.  
SEAN D. MURRAY, PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (2012), (Available in West Academic) Ch. 2, Section B, C.  
| Class #5  September 19th | International Organizations (cont’d):
| Supranational and Regional Organizations (focus on European Union) | Int’l Legal Research in a Nutshell, Ch. 7.
RALPH H. FOLSOM, EUROPEAN UNION LAW IN A NUTSHELL (9th ed. 2017). (Available in West Academic) Ch. 3. | Due by noon on Wednesday, September 25th. |
| Class #6  September 26th | Foreign Legal Research | Int’l Legal Research in a Nutshell, Ch. 3 & 11. | Due by noon on Wednesday, October 2nd. |
| Class #7  October 3rd | Student Presentations | | Final Project due by noon on Friday, October 11th |