RESEARCH METHODS IN INTERNATIONAL, FOREIGN & COMPARATIVE LAW

380.01 – [Term] 2019

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This one-credit advanced research seminar will introduce specific sources and strategies for researching international and foreign legal materials using both print and electronic resources.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

My office is [Room] in the Law Library. I have an open door policy but feel free to email me to schedule an appointment if you prefer.

CLASS TIME/LOCATION:

This is a fast track course and meets eight times this semester from [Start Date] through [End Date], on [Weekday] from [Time] AM/PM in [Room].

COURSE MATERIALS:

Readings will consist of selections from advanced legal research texts, law review and professional journal articles, websites, and blog entries addressing specific research issues and tasks. These will be assigned in class, posted on Sakai and should be completed prior to the next class.

Should you be inclined to purchase a comprehensive text for the course, I would recommend International and Foreign Legal Research: A Coursebook 2nd, by Marci Hoffman and Mary Rumsey.

COURSE POLICIES:

All work for this class must be completed in adherence to Law School rules and policies related to academic integrity, the Honor Code, and Law School Data and Network security policies.

Laptops are welcome and encouraged for class sessions, however there may be times when I ask you to close them. You are expected to be an active, responsible participant. If you are using your laptop for unrelated activities, you may be asked to put it away permanently.

GRADES:

Your grade in this course will be based on an in-class and out-of-class group project and related documentation (50%), research assignments (30%) and in-class participation (20%). The group project and all assignments must be completed in order to receive credit for the class.
ASSIGNMENTS:

All assignments will be available on Sakai to download. Unless noted otherwise, all completed assignments should be submitted online through Sakai in order to receive credit.

**Week 1 ([Date]): Introduction: Methods and Tools**

Topics of discussion include: syllabus review, goals, intro to methods and tools framework, readings activity, Google basics, Deep/Dark web intro, search engine settings (regional, etc.), currentness issues, and authentication.

**Week 2 ([Date]): Treaties and Related Documents**

Topics of discussion include: Examples of methods vs. tools, U.S. foreign policy (navigating state.gov), HeinOnline (TIAS, TIF, KAV), readings activity, UN audiovisual library of int. law (not UN AV library), UNTC site (UNTS and depositary notifications).

**Week 3 ([Date]): United Nations and Other International Organizations**

Topics of discussion include: Assignment 1 review, authentication example, differences of born digital and print resources, intro to library catalog (call #s, subject headings using UN treaty handbook as catalog example), Google advanced search functions (using interpol.int site), readings activity, UN symbols discussion, intro to UN databases, UN Handbook (NZ foreign ministry pub), and UN yearbooks.

**Week 4 ([Date]): European Union and Supra-National/Regional Organizations**

Topics of discussion include: Assignment 2 review, using print sources, print v. ebook activity, other formats, intro to internet archive, website evaluation activity, intro to Europa.eu site, intro to eur-lex site (w/ examples of treaties in force, official journal, celex #s, etc.), EU case law, JURE, national laws (via N-Lex), and brief summary of final project papers.

**Week 5 ([Date]): International Courts and Tribunals / Customary and Soft Law**

Topics of discussion include: Assignment 3 review, breakdown of a citation (law review, UN doc, and ECHR via ILM citation), Cardiff and Prince’s Abbreviations, law review article search activity, research guide review activity, intro to ICJ website, intro to ECHR website and HUDOC, discussion about tribunals and other international courts.
Week 6 ([Date]): *Foreign and Comparative Law*

Topics of discussion include: Assignment 4 review, defining foreign law, intro to Oxford’s Constitutions of the World, discussion of language issue and using Chrome browser and Japan Supreme Court site, intro to Foreign Law Guide and Globalex, intro to CanLii (and sometimes BaiLii), intro to International Encyclopedia of laws (or foreign law monographs or BLaw Getting the Deal Through), intro to Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals.

Week 7 ([Date]): *Small Group Classes / Group Projects*

Small group meetings of 5-6 students. Start by handing out final project outline and grading criteria, and answering questions to clarify. Hand out research prompt and again answer questions to clarify scope. Restrict laptops and encourage discussion for 10-15 minutes. (*I offer no assistance to the group after clarifying the problem, but require them to submit all additional questions via email and I will answer for everyone in the last class.*)

Week 8 ([Date]): *Group Project Question Session / Other Topics / Evaluations*

Topics of discussion include: Class evaluations, assignment 5 review, question / answer session for final project, (where there is interest) specialized topic research presentation, or time to work on final project.