

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LONDON LAW CONSORTIUM

Spring Semester 2009

British Legal Methods/ Seminar (3 credit hours)

Clinical Professor Patricia N. Acton, University of Iowa College of Law

Students may obtain a total of three hours of academic credit by participating in the British Legal Methods course. Students will be assigned a London barrister or solicitor and will spend each Monday accompanying their barrister to court, or assisting their solicitor with various legal tasks. They will maintain journals describing their experiences and will meet individually throughout the semester with their faculty supervisor. In addition, they will participate in a weekly seminar class, in which they will discuss legal ethics issues, British legal research methods, and the training of barristers and solicitors. The seminar will also feature guest speakers from the British legal profession, and students will take field trips to various local legal institutions. Later in the semester, students are required to give oral presentations and submit seminar papers of legal topics growing out of their experiences. Successful completion of these requirements will result in a grade of "Pass." Enrollment in the British Legal Methods/Seminar is limited to 16 students per semester. Students participating in the British Legal Methods/Seminar are required to enroll in the one-credit English Legal System course.

Commercial Law – Secured Transactions (3 credit hours)

Professor Keith G. Meyer, University of Kansas School of Law

The basic approach of the course is the application of Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) to credit problems. We will deal with what can be roughly called credit transactions: i) Relationships between debtors and creditors; and ii) relationships between creditors and third parties [other creditors, purchasers and debtor's trustee in bankruptcy] dealing with the debtor's property. In general, my goal is to enhance your ability to deal with statutory material and to develop an understanding of Article 9 of the UCC.

Constitutional Law – Individual Rights (3 credit hours)

Professor Wayne McCormack, University of Utah College of Law

This course surveys American constitutional protections for individual rights, focusing on due process; equal protection; freedom of expression and religion; and the state action doctrine. The corollary protections in British law and the European Covenant on Human Rights will be highlighted throughout.

Contemporary Food Production & Food Safety Issues (3 credit hours)

Professor Keith G. Meyer, University of Kansas School of Law

Roughly a third of the class will focus on the role of law in dealing with food safety issues. Areas to be considered include adulteration standards of consumable food produced domestically and imported, biotechnology [genetically modified crops (GMOs) and animal cloning], irradiation of food, BSE (mad cow disease) and testing, traceability of sick or contaminated animals, bio-terrorism and food labeling. The US and EU positions will be compared.

The other parts of the course will cover more traditional production issues. These will include such things as the current world controversy focusing on the role of government subsidies in U.S. and EU agriculture and the impact farm subsidies have on the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Doha negotiations. More traditional legal issues to be covered include production transaction issues such as leasing of agricultural land in the U.K. and the US, the marketing and storing of commodities, special secured financing rules in Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code relating to agriculture credit, the impact of the bankruptcy of a warehouse (elevator) containing producers' stored commodities and problems confronting the livestock industry.

English Legal System (1 credit hour)

Law Lecturer Dr. Leslie Turano, King's College, University of London

This course provides an introduction to the history and practice of the English legal system. The course will deal with the following topics: court structure, costs and legal aid, the judiciary, criminal procedure, the legal profession, structure of the U.K. Constitution, human rights in the U.K., juries, and the doctrine of precedent. This course meets from Friday, February 1 through Friday, March 14. The final exam will be given on Friday, March 28. (See "Class Schedule," p. 16.) **[Pat, please check these dates. I don't have them. Thanks!]**

Juries, Judges & Trials (3 credit hours)

Professor Nancy S. Marder, Chicago-Kent College of Law

This course will look at juries and judges as decision-makers, but the emphasis will be on the jury. As background, we will examine the constitutional rights to a civil and criminal jury trial, and then focus on each stage of the jury process, including the venire, voir dire, peremptory challenges, and deliberations, as well as current jury reforms such as those pertaining to juror note-taking, questions, instructions, and jury nullification. The course will focus on both law and policy pertaining to the American jury system, but comparisons will be made with the British jury trial. Illustrations will be drawn from current American and British jury trials whenever possible. There will be a take-home exam at the end of the course.

Law of the European Union (3 credit hours)

Senior Law Lecturer Dr. Alexander H. Turk, King's College, University of London

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the European Union Law. The course is divided into four parts, which examine the constitutional framework and

constitutional principles of the EU, some areas of substantive law and judicial remedies. The first part of the course (constitutional framework) will consider the historical development of the EU, its institutions and law-making processes. The second part will examine the constitutional principles governing the EU, such as the supremacy of the EC law over national law, mechanisms for its enforcement in the Member States (direct effect and liability of Member States for breach of the Community law) and the protection of fundamental rights. The third part will deal with some substantive areas of Community law, such as free movement of goods, persons, establishment and services, and anti-discrimination. The final part of the course will look at the procedural avenues for the enforcement of Community law and its judicial review in the European Court of Justice. Dr. Turk taught Law of the European Union in the 2008 London Law Consortium.

Law, Literature & Feminism (3 credit hours)

Professor Nancy S. Marder, Chicago-Kent College of Law

This course will use several novels, including Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*, Gloria Naylor's *The Women of Brewster Place*, Cristina Garcia's *Dreaming in Cuban*, and possibly a British novel, to illustrate several significant developments in the history of feminist legal theory and practice. These developments include: (1) the equality argument made by early feminist litigators and writers; (2) the equality vs. special treatment debate, which became most pronounced in the case of pregnant women in the workplace; (3) the dominance vs. difference debate, as exemplified by Catharine MacKinnon and Carol Gilligan respectively; and (4) the criticism by a younger generation that the earlier feminists had engaged in "essentialism" and the question of how best to address that criticism. The course requires four ungraded responses to the reading (1-2 pages), and a take-home final exam.

Legal Responses to Terrorism (3 credit hours)

Professor Wayne McCormack, University of Utah College of Law

This course explores the legitimate and appropriate responses of governments to terrorism, focusing on the legal mechanisms of U.S. and European governments in dealing with the modern phenomenon of political violence. The three available modes of response – military, criminal, and preventive – each has its own rules and limitations embedded in both domestic and international law. In times of emergency, governments tend to step outside of the traditional rules and limitations to claim extraordinary powers such as aggressive interrogation, executive detentions, and extraordinary renditions. The course will explore both the ordinary and extraordinary exercises of power.