

## H. International and Comparative Law

To: Students

From: International and Comparative Law Faculty

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Globalization has changed not only the nature of business and the economy, but also the nature of legal practice. Multinational corporations and production have become the norm rather than the exception, and one in six private-sector jobs in the United States is linked to the global economy. Similarly, government practice—at all levels—no longer looks solely inward, but increasingly confronts questions of foreign nationals and foreign activities. Simply put, legal problems most clients face today are not limited by national borders. Indeed, several of the most rapidly expanding areas of practice – including the law of cyberspace, immigration, intellectual property, cross border mergers and acquisitions – are inherently transnational. For all these reasons, the twenty-first century lawyer must be familiar with international legal doctrines and adept at dealing with multiple legal systems.

**Course of Study**. There are two foundational courses that students should consider as relevant to an introduction to international and comparative law. To the extent that staffing permits, we try to offer these courses regularly (either every year or every other year) in both the day and evening divisions.

Many students begin with the general survey course **International Law**. This course covers fundamental principles and doctrines, including the sources of international law (including treaties and customary international law), international organizations, the relationships between domestic and international law, human rights, international economic law and the legal norms governing the use of force. This course is designed both for students who plan to work in the international field and for those who, though they have no plans to specialize in this area, are looking to learn something about the general rules of international law.

Students who are primarily interested in international business, finance and transactions typically start with **International Commercial Transactions**. This course provides an introduction to transactional work undertaken by international commercial attorneys. It covers the export sale and its financing, the international transfer of technology and several of the major U.S. statutes governing international trade. These materials introduce students to the wide variety of international commercial transactions engaged in by international business persons, with the objectives of the various parties to such transactions, and with the standard contract terms and laws applicable to such transactions.

A “second tier” of advanced courses explores in more detail topics introduced in the basic survey courses as well as new topics. Thus, students interested primarily in public international law might take courses such as **International Protection of Human Rights, International Trade and Investment Policy, International Criminal Law, Foundations of International Criminal Law, International Organizations, or Treaties**. Students interested in international business or economic issues might take **International Commercial Arbitration, International Financial Law, International Intellectual Property, U. S. Business Planning for International Transactions, Advising the Multinational Company on Global Legal Issues, Law of Electronic Commerce, International Development Law and Policy, or The Global Workplace**. Students interested in comparative law might consider courses such as **Law in Asia, Chinese Law, Law of the European Union, Comparative Constitutional Law, and Family Law: Theory, Policy and Practice** (which includes comparative analysis). The **International Law Colloquium** is a writing seminar that provides students the opportunity to read and critique cutting edge research-in-progress by leading international law scholars.

A number of international and comparative courses cut across the traditional curricular boundaries. Thus, courses such as **Citizenship, Immigration and Refugee Law, Refugee Law and Policy, Constitutional Law and Foreign Policy, Globalization and the Constitution, and Post-Conflict and Transitional Justice** address both domestic and international law issues, and courses such as, **International Intellectual Property** and **International Health Law** address legal regimes governing both states and private actors. Finally, a number of other courses, such as **Business Immigration Law, Citizenship in Constitutional Perspective, Cyberlaw, Environmental Law: Global Climate Change** and **International Taxation**, do not focus on international or comparative law as such, but address topics with significant international legal implications.

Students with strong interests in international and comparative law should consider attending one of Temple’s overseas program. The law school has a long-standing summer program in Rome, as well as the only semester-long program in Japan. Also, opportunities are available to study for a semester in Beijing, Cork or Utrecht. These programs provide outstanding opportunities to study international and comparative law from leading U.S. and foreign scholars and to take courses that are not offered in Philadelphia. For more information about the foreign and international programs see Item K on the Faculty Advice web page, and contact Assistant Dean Louis Thompson.

Finally, students with interests in these areas should attend activities sponsored by the law school’s **Institute for International Law and Public Policy**. The Institute sponsors a rich variety of lecture series, conferences and symposia that bring leading international law scholars and practitioners to the law school. Information about upcoming Institute events can be found at the Institute’s webpage, <<http://www.temple.edu/lawschool/ilpp/>>, or posted outside the Institute’s office (Klein 703).