

## Law Curriculum Course Descriptions

### International Legal English and Advocacy (ILEA) Module

#### **LW 100 International Legal English (ILE)**

This course introduces students to English terminology and constructs related to basic legal concepts and general aspects of legal systems. The course also teaches students to perform legal practice skills in English as they relate to the following commercial law topics: company formation and management; capitalization; contract negotiation; remedies and assignment; employment issues; sale of goods law; real and intellectual property problems; negotiable instruments; secured transactions; debtor-creditor interactions; and competition law. More than other fields, precision and competence in written expression is a tool of the legal profession. The course reinforces core reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in English and prepares students to obtain the International Legal English Certification upon successful completion of the ILEC exam.

#### **LW 102 Legal Research and Analysis**

This course is a legal problem solving based introduction to legal method and legal analysis as practiced in Western law today. Students will learn basic research skills, sources of precedent, the role of precedent and the development of precedent in the common law, the reading and "briefing" of cases, the reading and interpretation of statutes, the legal analysis of factual problems, objective legal writing (IRAC method) and basic legal argument.

#### **LW 104 Argumentation Skills**

Argumentation is the use of effective reasoning to persuasively communicate an idea or position. Since classical times, argumentation has been a highly valued skill, even an art form. In this course, students will learn how to make deductive and inductive arguments; how to identify and utilize the elements of rhetoric; how to evaluate the claims, evidence, and inferences underlying arguments; how to understand and manipulate burdens of proof; and generally how to identify and utilize other argumentation frameworks and techniques. To complete the course students must present an argument, field questions from the class and/or participate in a formal debate with another student.

#### **LW 109 Topics in ILEP**

This course will focus on selected topics related to legal practice skills, legal research and analysis, and/or advocacy and argumentation.

### American Law I (AmLaw 1) Module

#### **LW 110 American Law I (AmLaw 1)**

This course aims to equip students with a systematic overview of substantive US law of contracts, torts and criminal law. The method will be primarily problem-solving, with case law (IRAC analysis) and blackletter law. Topics covered in the contracts portion include offer, acceptance, consideration, defenses to enforcement, third-party rights, assignment, measure of damages and remedies. Topics covered in the torts portion include intentional torts, negligence, negligence per se, strict liability, causation, and the elements of common torts, measure of damages and remedies. Topics covered in the criminal law portion include the criminal law elements, mental state, defenses, and degrees of murder, assault and battery, rape, crimes against property (larceny, embezzlement, robbery, burglary, arson), white collar crime, bribery, and perjury.

**LW 112            Institutions and Process I (I&P 1)**

This course systematically presents the US legislative and judicial institutions and their main functions and process. The legislative portion of the course will cover the constitutional basis for the US Congress, elections, authorities and organization of Congress and its committees, staff, and constituent relations, and the full process of lawmaking from introduction of a draft law through enactment. The portion of the course devoted to the judiciary will focus on the constitutional basis for the US federal court system and its relation to the state courts, jurisdictional matters, the structure, selection, qualifications of judges, as well as the court staff, and will follow the judicial process for a civil case from filing of the complaint through appeal and final execution.

**119                Topics in American Law I**

This course will focus on selected topics related to common law systems generally, and/or the American system, and as related to a specific field of legal study.

**American Law II (AmLaw 2) Module**

**LW 120            American Law II (AmLaw 2)**

This course aims to equip students with a systematic overview of substantive US Constitutional and property law. The method will be primarily problem-solving, with case law (IRAC analysis) and blackletter law. Topics covered in the property portion include possessory ownership, fee simple, concurrent ownership, leaseholds, landlord/tenant, easements, servitudes, zoning, land sale contracts, mortgages, water, mineral & air rights, takings. Topics in the constitutional law portion of the course include jurisdictional matters and standing, separation of powers, regulation of commerce, procedural and substantive due process, equal protection, other fundamental rights (speech, religion, privacy, travel, vote).

**LW 122            Institutions and Process II (I&P 2)**

This course systematically presents the US criminal justice system and the administrative institutions and their main functions and processes. The administrative portion of the course will cover the appointment, structure and functions of administrative bodies, including administrative courts and judges, with a full analysis of the two main administrative functions – rule-making and decision-making, from start to final rule or decision, and judicial challenge and review, including constitutional standards of due process and regulatory power. The portion of the course devoted to the criminal process will focus on the investigatory and prosecutorial agencies, law enforcement, and the court and grand and petit jury system, as well as the rights of the accused and prisoners, and role of defense counsel. The criminal process will be studied from pre-arrest investigation through appeal and constitutional challenges under the 4th, 5th, and 6th Amendments to the US constitution.

**LW 129            Topics in American Law II**

This course will focus on selected topics related to common law systems generally, and/or the American system, and as related to a specific field of legal study.

**European Law (EuroLaw) Module**

**LW 130            European Union Law**

This course gives an overview of the European Union institutional and legal structure, its foundation documents, and regulatory framework, as well as issues relating to transactions and economic activity in the EU.

**LW 132 European Institutions & Process**

This course provides a general introduction to the European integration process and the European Union. The course examines the historical origins and development of European integration (1945-present, including the evolution in EC/EU Treaties and the evolution in EC/EU membership), the complex division of authority between the EU and its Member States; and the EU's current institutional framework. The course will focus on the composition, powers, decision-making and functioning of the EU's institutions (European Council, European Commission, Council of Ministers, European Parliament) and shared decision-making processes, through analysis of the EU's legal acts and the EU's open coordination method.

**LW 134 European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)**

This course gives an overview of the European Convention on Human Rights and the procedures for appealing cases to the ECHR. Topics include applicability of ECHR in domestic courts, a survey of the most important ECHR precedents and trends.

**LW 139 Topics in European Law (elective)**

**Public International Law (PIL) Module**

**LW 140 Public International Law**

From a legal problem solving perspective this course explores public international law in both an Armenian and regional context. Topics reviewed include sources of public international law and its contemporary development, the expanding scope of international actors (including non-State actors like corporations), the utility of international and domestic fora and reviewing modern day challenges to future public international law development.

**LW 142 Human Rights Law**

By presenting legal problems for discussion and resolution, this course introduces students to the principles and the practice of contemporary human rights law in the world and in an Armenian context. Attention is given to the development of individual claims against states regarding issues of torture; civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; and women and ethnic minority rights. Also explored are contemporary challenges to international humanitarian law and individual accountability through the development of international criminal law. Sources of law reviewed include international treaties, customary law and Armenian legislation.

**LW 149 Topics in PIL (elective)**

**Business Law (BusLaw) Module**

**LW 150 Business Organizations**

This course focuses on corporations, their formation and structure, the role of shareholders, management, regulators and other stakeholders, capital structures, kinds of securities, corporate financing, open vs. closed companies, and typical transactions and documents involved in corporate formation and investments

**LW 152 International Business Transactions**

This course covers basic international sales of goods and services transactions, leasing, licensing, as well as investment, financial and secured transactions, and the typical kinds of documents and

issues practitioners and client face in such transactions, including choice of law, dispute resolution, intellectual property, security, authority, customs, tax and other regulatory matters.

**LW 159        Topics in Business Law (elective)**

**Master's Paper**

**LW 200        Master's Paper**

This is the program's capstone experience, completed under the supervision of department faculty. The Master's Paper requires substantial research and writing and may include field work or case studies. Students shall select topics and determine the appropriate format and kind of research required in conjunction with the faculty advisor. Enrollment for the Master's Paper is limited each term, depending upon the availability of faculty advisors. Students must check with the Department before registering for this course.

**300            Electives**

**LW 306        Law & Justice in Popular Culture**

This course explores how legal concepts, role models, and professional ethos in popular culture promote and reinforce the rule of law. The course aims to explore how dedicated individuals using the skills and arts of persuasive and knowledge of the law can expand justice in their societies by the use of legal mechanisms. Through the medium of film and literature followed by class discussion, the following basic concepts are reviewed: social contract theory, professional ethics, rule of law (e.g. resort to courts and legal structures to resolve conflict as an alternative to violence), a comparative review of legal systems (e.g. use of juries, class action mechanisms, etc.) and standard defendant rights (right against self-incrimination, right to counsel), professional responsibility for attorneys and judicial ethics, and legal advocacy.

**LW 314        Moot Court**

Moot Court is a practicum for legal advocacy, in which students prepare and present a case in a simulated courtroom using hypothetical facts, but real law. The course requires students to apply legal-research skills (finding, selecting and weighing competing rules as well as using proper source citation), legal analysis skills (applying appropriate rules to corresponding facts), persuasive legal writing skills, and oral advocacy skills. Each student will be required to prepare written and oral presentations of part of the case. Pre-requisite: LW 105 Argumentation or permission of Dean.

**LW 324        Public Advocacy**

Increasingly lawyers, because of their insight into public policy, are called upon to use their skills to advocate in the court of public opinion and other fora beyond the formal courtroom and deliberative assembly. This course aims to equip students with models and skills to be effective public advocates. In addition to learning theoretical models and case studies, students will be called upon to design advocacy strategies and make written and oral presentations in simulations of public deliberation. Pre-requisite: LW 105 Argumentation or permission of Dean.

**LW 336        Topics in Comparative Law**

This course gives an overview of civil and common law systems as well as the methods and sources of comparative law. Topics may include comparative institutions (e.g., courts), comparative substantive law (e.g., contracts or property), or historical and jurisprudential comparisons, and other legal systems (e.g., Islamic law, canon law, Armenia's Dataganagirk).

**LW 344 International Humanitarian Law (Summer Course)**

This course immerses students in the principles and the practice of contemporary International Humanitarian Law through an evolving complex case study. To teach advocacy and analytical skills, students are assigned various roles as they represent the interests of conflicting parties, divergent governmental interests and international organizations. Taught in conjunction with the ICRC, specific areas of IHL addressed include the qualification of armed conflicts, legal protections for non-combatants, prisoners of war, civilians, and cultural property as well as legal limits on the use of weaponry.

**LW 354 Administrative Law**

This course aims to give students an advanced overview of administrative law institutions, processes, and functions, including rule-making, decision-making, and constitutional standards of due process and judicial review. Topics may include specific regulatory areas (e.g., environmental protection, food and drug safety, zoning and land use, social welfare benefits, economic competition/antitrust, banking) drawn from domestic or foreign legal frameworks.

**LW 356 Intellectual Property (IP)**

This course aims to give students an overview of kinds of intellectual property (e.g., copyright, patent, trademark, service marks) and the main issues involved in intellectual property registration, licensing and protection. Topics may include domestic, European, US or International legal frameworks for intellectual property protection.

**LW 358 Negotiation**

This course aims to give students a framework for conducting orderly and effective negotiations, including preparation for negotiations, techniques and documents for handling typical situations that arise in business negotiations or dispute settlements.

**LW 360 Legal Drafting**

This course is a legal writing course which may cover both persuasive and objective legal writing, e.g., - contracts, legislation, memos, letters in accordance with standard US legal form and style.

**LW 400 Independent Study**

**LW 410 Clinical Course**

The Clinical Course is designed to permit students to gain practical experience in a law related institution (e.g., courts, parliament, administrative body, NGO, mediation program) under the supervision of an experienced practitioner or legal research. Clinical Courses may also involve internships, externships, or research at the AUA Legal Research Center or other approved site. Students should check with the AUA Law Department to find out what clinical opportunities are available in any given term, since placements are limited and vary from term-to-term depending upon demand and availability of qualified sites and supervisors.