

## International and Comparative Law Courses

Lawyers are involved both in public international law (the law that governs relationships among nations) and in private international law (the law that governs transactions between private parties). Public international law is a distinct and self-contained system of law, independent of the national systems with which it interacts, and dealing with relations which they do not effectively govern. Private international law governs the choice of law to apply when there are conflicts in the domestic law of different countries related to private transactions. This means that there is a dispute or transaction that involves what jurisdiction applies, the choice of law to apply, or recognition or enforcement of a foreign judgment.

In addition, the increasing globalization of commerce means that many lawyers will have clients who do business in a number of different countries or otherwise have multi-national connections. This means they will need to know something about the internal law of other nations. Comparative law is a legal methodology that looks at the various ways legal systems are structured and considers some of the typical differences among common law, civil law, and religious law systems. Conflict of Laws addresses cross-jurisdictional issues of choice of law and forum, jurisdictional conflicts, and the enforcement of judgments and awards.

### *Foundation Courses – Introducing the Basic Concepts*

International Law  
Comparative Law I  
Conflict of Laws  
International Business & Financial Transactions  
International Economic Law & Development  
International Litigation & Arbitration  
International Protection of Human Rights

### *Recommended Courses – International & Comparative Law Electives*

Comparative Law II: Law of Treaties (EW)  
Comparative Law II: Criminal Procedure (GW)  
European Convention on Human Rights (EW)  
European Union Law  
Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (EW)  
Immigration Law  
International & Comparative Health Law  
International Criminal Law (EW)  
International Economic Law & Development  
International Environmental Law  
International & Foreign Legal Research  
International Franchising  
International Humanitarian Law  
International Intellectual Property  
International Legal Research (PS)  
International Litigation & Arbitration (GW)  
International Protection of Human Rights (EW)

International Tax I & II  
Oil & Gas Contracts: Domestic & International  
Perspectives on Counter-Terrorism (EW)

Students interested in international and comparative law might want to consider applying for the Oxford summer program. See <http://www.law.smu.edu/lawschool/oxford/oxfordprogramme.shtml> for details.

*Related Courses*

Business Enterprise  
Constitutional Law I & II

Lawyers representing international clients will most often be giving them advice about U.S. law, and so it is important to be familiar with federal and state law. Consult the other listings for the courses in the areas in which you anticipate your clients may need advice, such as Antitrust Law, Business and Corporate Law, Commercial Law, Tax Law, Family Law, Intellectual Property Law, Immigration Law or the like.

*Externships*

Executive Office for Immigration Review  
US Citizenship & Immigration Services Chief Area Counsel's Office  
International Law Externships

*Public Service Placements*

Catholic Charities  
Human Rights Initiative

*Student Groups*

International Law Society  
International Law Review Association

*Faculty*

Here are the full-time faculty members who teach or have an interest in this area:

Anthony Colangelo (international relations)  
Jeff Gaba (international environmental law)  
Christopher Hanna (international tax)  
Chris Jenks (international humanitarian law)  
Jeff Kahn (international human rights; national security law)  
John Lowe (international oil & gas)  
Joe Norton (international business, development, and finance)  
Beth Thornburg (comparative civil procedure)  
Jenia Turner (international criminal law)  
Peter Winship (private international law)