Sample Course List

Counterterrorism Under Law

**Course Description:**
This course will examine the challenge of confronting terrorist groups and other national-security threats while preserving the rule of law, constitutional government, and individual rights. Topics to be covered include detention, electronic surveillance, oversight of secret intelligence agencies, the use of military force, and others. Within each topic, students will first learn how the U.S. legal system and, where applicable, international law accommodate national-security imperatives while restraining governmental power. The class will then consider one or more case studies illustrating how other governments have confronted the same problem. Drawing on these examples, students will have an opportunity to draw broader conclusions about the challenge of reconciling national-security powers with the rule of law in each area.

Transitional Justice Mechanisms

**Course Description:**
This course will be taught by the former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues, who also served as a prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia and for the European Union. The course will examine the development of the field of international justice, the political and policy context in which transitional justice mechanisms are created and operate, and the record and jurisprudence of the various institutions established since the 1990’s when the modern era of international justice commenced. In addition to the classroom instruction and discussion, students will select a country or region that has confronted transitional justice challenges and will analyze whether the approaches employed to deliver justice have been successful and what alternative approaches, if any, might have produced better results.

International Human Rights Law

**Course Description:**
This class will provide an overview of the international human rights law system. We will examine the primary substantive standards that comprise the core of international human rights law, such as rights to a fair trial and to be free from genocide, torture, summary execution, arbitrary arrest and detention, and discrimination. We will also examine so-called “second-generation rights,” such as economic, social, and cultural rights. We will study the primary institutions and processes for the enforcement of such rights: treaty monitoring bodies, the regional human rights courts and commissions, the United Nations institutions, including the Human Rights Commission and the Security Council, domestic implementation through legislative and judicial mechanisms, as well as through inter-governmental diplomacy, reporting, and the mobilization of shame by non-governmental organizations. And, we will examine the explosion of international criminal tribunals, beginning with an examination of the Nuremberg trials, then a look at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and the new International Criminal Court.
Sample Course List

**Course Description:**
Students constitute an U.S. Embassy Country Team for a specific country and manage a reality-based diplomatic agenda. The focus country will be one dealing with challenges related to the establishment of rule of law and good governance. Students will be assigned the actual roles of Embassy team members, and together with their “Ambassador,” practice how U.S. foreign policy, particularly in the rule of law sector, is developed and executed in the field. For this semester, the course will focus on Turkey – a newly independent state that is dealing with legal uncertainties over international recognition and accession to international agreements, systemic corruption, a history of ethnic-based atrocity crimes, unresolved issues over rights of minorities, networks of organized criminality, and secessionist movements that control certain swaths of territory. This course will also examine the broader regional context for development of rule of law.

**Building Justice Institutions**

**Course Description:**
This course will focus on the importance of rule of law to U.S. engagement with a partner nation. Students will learn how the U.S. assists foreign countries and how the U.S. balances its priorities with a host country’s needs and interests. We will examine what types of justice assistance the U.S. provides, which agencies and departments within the U.S. Government are responsible for assistance, and who our foreign counterparts are. We will also discuss the roles and agendas of other actors who build justice institutions in transitioning countries, such as national governments and multi-lateral organizations. Students will learn how to plan rule of law development and how to formulate a strategy of engagement with a recipient country. Students will be challenged to think about all elements (political, military, financial, social, and environmental) that factor into U.S. engagement with a foreign country and will be asked to account for these when designing a program of justice sector assistance. By placing rule of law development within the context of broader U.S. national security goals and interests, students will begin to understand how rule of law fits into overall U.S. foreign policy. At the end of the course, students will be well-positioned to begin the process of embarking on a career of international rule of law development and justice capacity building.

**Combatting Corruption**

**Course Description:**
The course will provide an overview of critical issues policymakers face in crafting policies to combat corruption. Topics to be covered include defining and measuring corruption, the criminal law and corruption, ethics and integrity rules, international asset recovery law, procurement corruption, rewarding whistleblowers, bid rigging, development agencies and anticorruption interventions, and money laundering. The emphasis will be on questions of legal policy that arise in addressing these issues. An example would be whether laws banning bribery and related offenses should be tightly-written rules or broadly-drawn standards. The latter may result in some other corrupt acts escaping prosecution while the former grants enforcement agent’s discretion. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each? Are there environments where one approach is to be preferred?
Other courses may include:

- International Human Rights Law in Practice
- Law of Armed Conflict
- Law of War
- International Criminal Law
- International Humanitarian Law
- Law of the Sea