

International and Foreign Legal Research
Class Overview and Policies

Goal Statement for International and Foreign Legal Research

As a general rule, legal research requires the use of many different sources. The type and nature of the sources used often depends upon the issues under examination, as well as jurisdictional considerations. Knowledge of international and foreign legal research is a necessary component of being a successful lawyer both in the United States and worldwide. The new “global world order” creates a fundamental need for law students and attorneys to achieve exposure to transnational legal research in their contemporary environment.

This course is designed to teach students how to research international and foreign legal materials. The course uses a combination of lectures, hands-on research exercises, and interactive activities to teach essential research skills. Students will learn effective research strategies to consult both electronic and print legal research sources. Some topics covered include: foreign and international secondary sources, treaties, jurisprudence, and the documents of international organizations including the European Union. Other topics will be taught as time permits.

Contact Info

Kyle K. Courtney, Esq.
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Office Hours by Appointment

Please make appointments with me by calling or emailing me directly. I am typically on campus in the law school M-F 7:30am – 3:30pm, except for class time on Wednesdays 6:00pm – 8:00pm.

Required Materials

There are no required reading materials for this class.

Additional Suggested Readings

Any additional suggested readings will be posted on TWEN and put on reserve. They are a supplement to what we discuss in class.

Class Schedule

Classes are held Wednesdays 6:00pm – 8:00pm in Dockser Room 230. Please check TWEN each week carefully for scheduling variations and additions.

Class Attendance and Readings

Class attendance is required and students are expected to do the assigned readings. Please be on time for class and plan on staying until the end of class. You are allowed one unexcused class absence without penalty. If you need to be absent more than once because of illness or other serious circumstance, please contact me in advance.

TWEN - The West Education Network

International and Foreign Legal Research has a class website. I use Westlaw's TWEN as a forum to disseminate and exchange information. You are responsible for checking TWEN on a weekly basis for readings and changes to classroom assignments.

Research Exercises

In this class there is a combination of exercises to be completed in-class and outside of class. Please turn in your completed exercises to my administrative assistant, Rick Doyon in Room 36 in Cargill Hall, or email them directly to me at k.courtney@neu.edu.

Although you may work in groups to research the exercises, please fill out and turn in your own individual answers.

You are allowed one unexcused late exercise without penalty. If you need to turn in additional late exercises due to illness or other serious circumstance, please talk to me.

Final Project: Research Guide

Please see the TWEN site for more information regarding the Final Project.

Evaluations

In evaluating your performance in this class, I will consider overall effort and improvement in your legal research skills, class attendance and participation, and the quality of your assignments, exercises, and final project.