

Extended LLM Program and Certificate in American Legal English Course Descriptions of Year 1 Required Courses

Fall Semester Courses:

English for International Lawyers (full year)

This year-long course gives students the academic English language skills needed for coursework at the Georgetown Law Center. It is an intensive, integrated skills language course and covers academic reading and writing, discussion and oral presentation skills, and listening and speaking skills for the classroom and business environments. Additionally, throughout the course, students' vocabulary and pronunciation skills are enhanced. The first term focuses on an orientation to the US law classroom and living in the US, helping students develop language skills to thrive in many different environments. The spring term focuses on academic researching, reading, and writing skills, giving students the tools necessary for writing academic research papers.

Foundations of American Legal Pedagogy

American legal teaching emphasizes critical reading in advance of class and "Socratic" discussion in class. This class examines the foundations of this pedagogical approach and equips students to be more effective in preparing for class and more comfortable participating in discussion. The course also provides a basic understanding of some of the recurring vocabulary and concepts of American legal pedagogy.

Law, Society, and Culture: Stories and Counter-Stories (full year)

This year-long course encourages students to think and write critically about the law, both as a body of legal rules (the law as normative) and as a force changing our society and culture (the law as transformative). In the fall, we will examine various representations of the law in fiction, drama, and film. This array of cultural narratives will allow us to consider the different ways in which the story of the law can be conceived: as a story in which the law can be seen as an instrument of oppression or emancipation (or both), as a truth-finding tool or a means to obscure truth (or both). In the spring, our attention will turn more specifically to the workings of the U.S. legal system. We will read non-fiction accounts of significant legal controversies. Throughout the year, our goal will be to look at the law from a variety of perspectives, both familiar and unfamiliar, both traditional and radically provocative. Along the way each student will refine his or her skills of legal analysis and articulation.

Introduction to U.S. Legal Methods

This course introduces students from civil law jurisdictions to the mixed legal system(s) of the United States. Through the Socratic discourse we will develop legal tools and thought processes and necessary to immerse in the uniquely American blend of statutory law and judge-made law within a federal system.

U.S. Legal Discourse

This course introduces students to U.S. legal resources, research methods, and analytical paradigms. Writing assignments give students the opportunity to develop written analysis using the approaches, forms, and conventions common in U.S. law.

Law in a Global Context

This is an intensive, problem based course that will explore the role of law in a global context. The problem will be one that involves both U.S. and non-U.S. law and forces students to examine how to be effective as a lawyer in a dispute that crosses borders. Students will be broken into teams to represent “clients” and to participate in a mock negotiation, arbitration, or court hearing.

Spring Semester Courses

English for International Lawyers (full year)

Law, Society, and Culture: Stories and Counter-Stories (full year)

Introduction to Scholarly Writing

This course introduces students to scholarly legal writing, focusing on the writing process and the expectations of the audience in the legal discourse community. Students will be introduced to legal research techniques for selecting a topic and thesis for a scholarly paper and will engage in all steps of the writing process, including creating an initial outline, writing a draft, rewriting and revising for completeness and clarity, and polishing. In addition to regular class meetings to discuss research strategies, outlining techniques, organizational tools, use of footnotes for authority and attribution, and audience expectations, students will meet regularly with the professor in one-on-one conferences to discuss the progress of their papers and will receive feedback from the professor at each stage of the writing process. Students will be required to research and write an original scholarly paper of at least 10-15 pages in length and to engage in multiple revisions of the paper.

Elective

Students will select one course from the regular LL.M. curriculum to audit. The selected course must be at least 2 credit hours. Students will be required to submit weekly summaries of the readings and class discussions in the course.