

American University Washington College of Law Course Descriptions for the 2020 Europe Summer Programs

London and Brussels (May 24 – June 6, 2020)

Transnational Business Law Survey (1.5 credits)

This course surveys practice areas in international and EU business law. This weeklong course takes place in London and introduces the different components of international business practice, such as international corporate law; international commercial transactions and commercial finance; international commercial and investment arbitration; and (time permitting) international tax strategies. Site visits are made to leading institutions, typically including transnational law firms, legal and economic entities such as the English bar and a multilateral development bank. Each site visit includes expert instruction, sometimes by some of the most prominent regulators and practitioners in the world and sometimes by younger lawyers who are currently doing the work that current students will be doing within a few years of graduation. The goal of the course is to provide an overview of international business practice with a European emphasis.

EU Data Protection Regulation (1.5 credits)

This course is held in Brussels and emphasizes EU regulation of privacy. Particular attention is paid to current issues and topics such as the GDPR and comparative privacy regulations. Site visits are made to leading institutions, typically including the Legal Services of the European Commission, Parliament and Council of the EU and private firms. Each site visit includes expert instruction, sometimes by some of the most prominent regulators and practitioners in the world and sometimes by younger lawyers who are currently doing the work that current students will be doing within a few years of graduation. The goal of the course is to introduce students to the evolving world of privacy regulation.

International Trade & IP in Geneva (June 7 – June 20, 2020)

International Rule Making and Dispute Settlement – WTO, WIPO and the Multilateral System (3 credits)

The Geneva Summer Program course on Intellectual Property and Trade offers students an in-depth look at international issues through direct contact with experts on intellectual property and international trade law at organizations such as the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Trade Organization. The course is composed of two units. The unit on Intellectual Property in the Multilateral System includes comparative study of international treaties on intellectual property. The course will cover contemporary debates around the role of intellectual property in development, including such issues as the impact of patents on public health, the transfer of technology and licensing, regulation of access to genetic resources, protection for traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, enforcement of intellectual property rights, and the role of intellectual property in the promotion of green technology and responding to climate change. The unit on World Trade Organization: Rule Making and Dispute Settlement provides an overview of the substantive areas of international economic relations that are covered in the text of the WTO Agreements. The course will specifically look at the workings of the different WTO divisions, including the accessions and rules divisions, the workings of specific committees, the WTO dispute settlement mechanism (including the Appellate Body) and the WTO's Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM).

Human Rights and ILO in Geneva (June 21 – July 11, 2020)

ILO: Decent Work Agenda (2 credits): This course will focus on the International Labor Organization and the multiple ways in which it promotes rights at work, employment and social protection. It is a complement to human rights standards and one of the oldest and most used ways for the protection of labor rights. The class will touch on diverse issues related to the protection of workers such as global supply chains, corporate social responsibility, rights of workers with disabilities, labor migration, and the rights of indigenous peoples, among others. Much of labor legislation around the world is based on the principles and instruments that governments, employers and workers have agreed to in the ILO since 1919. Today this is recognized by the multilateral system as the Decent Work agenda. In addition to employment, social protection, rights at work and social dialogue (tripartite cooperation), a special look will be taken at the ways the ILO makes its unique standards supervisory system work. The course will also highlight corporate social responsibility and the way in which technical cooperation renders the Decent Work agenda operative throughout the world.

Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law: Current

Challenges (2 credits): This course will focus on current developments of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The course will allow students to be exposed to the practical underpinnings of international human rights law and International Humanitarian Law in the Geneva scene. Participants will be able to meet some of the main actors currently working in human rights cutting edge issues in Geneva. They will have unique access to some of the most important actors in the United Nations system and civil society that shape the legal and political debate surrounding the UN Human Rights Council and its special mandates, as well as the work of UN treaty bodies. They will also have the opportunity to exchange views with experts from institutions such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, among others. The course provides participants with a perfect opportunity to complement their interest in human rights and/or humanitarian law by providing the real-life experience of experts working in Geneva from several perspectives in this field of international law.