

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION – LAW 127 FALL 2024 LECTURE SYLLABUS (Part 2 – Writing)

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Class Meetings

Class meetings are held on Thursday evenings from 6:05p-8:05p beginning on October 10, 2024 and ending on November 28, 2024. Location TBD.

Course Description and Learning Objectives

Through the Vis Moot experience, students will learn and address complex issues regarding arbitral jurisdiction and procedure and substantive law regarding the international sale of goods. They will learn to identify issues, perform research on international arbitration and the CISG, and write persuasive memorials in an international arbitration setting.

George Mason University has participated in the Vis Moot since 2012 and has regularly reached the elimination rounds of the competition. Participating in this competition will teach you practical skills in representing clients in a global commercial marketplace.

Students are not required to participate in the Vis Moot competition. The course has a parallel track for students interested in writing a paper on international commercial arbitration.

Attendance

Students must meet the GMU attendance policy requirements.

Grading

Grades are based on your written individual and small group work product, your performance on assigned class presentations, and your informed participation in class. The grading breaks down as follows: Written Memorandum or Individual Research Paper (60%), Legal Issue Paper and Presentation (25%), and Participation (15%).

Schedule

Class 1 October 10	Review of the Vis Moot Problem and Legal Issues Review Procedural Order #1 Discussion on the legal issues in the Moot Problem
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	<p>Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timelines (submitted as a group) [DUE] October 9 @ 5:00p - Headings (submitted as a group) [DUE] October 9 @ 5:00p - Requests for Clarification (submitted as a group) [DUE] October 9 @ 5:00p
<p>Class 2 October 17</p>	<p>Mapping Legal Issues</p> <p>Create a list of legal issues to be assigned for research topics as a class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual Legal Issue Memos are due October 31 <i>before class</i> (subject to change) <p>Discussion on drafting memoranda and presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each memo group will prepare a full draft memo – First Draft [DUE] November 6 @ 5:00p <p>Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revised Headings (submitted as a group) [DUE] October 16 @ 5:00p
<p>Class 3 October 24</p>	<p>Requests for Clarification</p> <p>Complete list of requests for clarification as a class Discussion on legal issues</p> <p>Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revised Headings and 1st ¶ of each major heading (submitted as a group) [DUE] October 23 @ 5:00p - Revised Requests for Clarification (submitted as a group) [DUE] October 23 @ 5:00p - Revised Timelines (submitted as a group) [DUE] October 23 @ 5:00p <p>The second half is an in-class work day and freeform discussion on legal issues – <i>attendance is required.</i></p> <p>Paper Track Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The legal issue presentation is your last assignment related to the Moot Problem. Attendance in class is no longer required other than your presentation date. - YOU MUST REVIEW THIS SYLLABUS FOR DEADLINES RELATED TO YOUR PAPER - Final paper is due December 18, the last day of finals.
<p>Class 4 October 31</p>	<p>Legal Issue Presentations and Drafting Memoranda</p> <p>Discuss draft memos and legal issues</p> <p>Assignments</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issue Memos [DUE] October 31 <i>before class</i> (subject to change) - Legal Issue Presentations – Students on paper track present first <p>Paper Track Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit your paper idea with one-page description and research plan [DUE] October 30 @ 5:00p
Class 5 November 7	<p>Legal Issue Presentations and Oral Advocacy</p> <p>Discuss draft memos and legal issues Discuss oral advocacy and the structure of introductions and roadmaps</p> <p>Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Memo – COMPLETE drafts – no rough drafts – by November 6 @ 5:00p - Legal Issue Presentations <p>Paper Track Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit a summary of your research and research plan for the rest of the semester [DUE] November 6 @ 5:00p
Class 6 November 14	<p>Oral Introductions and Roadmaps</p> <p>Every student provides an oral introduction and roadmap of arguments for Claimant</p> <p>Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [DUE] Second Draft Memo [DUE] November 13 @ 5:00p <p>Paper Track Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit an outline of your paper and preliminary findings [DUE] November 13 @ 5:00p
Class 7 TBD (REMOTE)	<p>Memo drafting discussion for those available or reschedule Final Memos [DUE] November 30 @ 5:00p</p>
Class 8 TBD	<p>Oral Argument and Tryout for the Vis Moot Team in the Spring</p> <p>Every student will present a single-issue argument for the Claimant for 10 minutes. You may choose the issue you will argue. Every student must present an argument even if you do not plan to compete with the team.</p> <p>This oral argument, along with your work on the memo throughout this course, will constitute your tryout for the Spring Vis Moot class. The Spring class has</p>

up to eight (8) slots. We will take up to six (6) students to Vienna to compete in the oral rounds of the competition.

The team will be announced by the end of the week

Assignments

- FINAL Memo [DUE] November 30 @ Midnight
- The selected team will take the final class Claimant's memoranda and use them to draft a Claimant's memorandum to submit to Vienna [DUE]
- The selected team will then draft the Respondent's memorandum to submit to Vienna [DUE]