

Field Study for International Students
Fall 2025 Syllabus

Course Number: 025

Academic Credit/Grading: This course shall be graded CR/NC and is for one class credit. Approval of the professor is required prior to enrolling in the course.

Professor: Courtney Dinsmore, Adjunct Professor

Contact Information: cdinsmor@gmu.edu

Description:

The international practice of law presents attorneys with the opportunity to learn about and navigate local laws, admission requirements and immigration regimes. Attorneys practicing in a different country develop client relationships in different cultural settings and tackle cultural and/or language barriers to serve those clients. Rules and norms of professional conduct, as well as service delivery methods, can vary based on country and practice setting.

Under the international student field study program, students supplement their academic experiences by using their knowledge and skills in a legal or policy field outside of their home country. Field study for international students is open only to JD students participating in a field study following their first year of law school in a country other than their home country. The field study may be paid or unpaid.

Learning Objective:

This class is designed to foster deeper engagement and exploration of an aspect of a student's transnational legal practice.

By the end of the class students will improve lawyering skills, including legal or policy research, analysis, and writing; oral communication skills, and assignment management skills; increase their knowledge of a particular area of the law or policy and exposure to ethical matters and rules of conduct; and develop stronger interpersonal and professional skills.

Course Requirements:

This course is open only to JD students who will be doing an internship following their first year of law school in a country other than their home country. The internship may be paid or unpaid.

All items must be submitted by *December 5* unless permission was given ahead of time for a later date.

1. **Hours.** Each student must complete at least 60 hours of work. Students must keep track of their hours and duties. Students will document their hours for the semester and provide such documentation to the professor. Hours should include sufficient descriptions of your duties or projects that we could provide such a write up to a client if we were billing out your work.
2. **Two Meetings.** Each student is required to meet with the professor twice during the semester. One meeting will be at the beginning of the semester. Each student must schedule a second meeting mid-semester to discuss how the externship is progressing.
3. **Reflective Project.** Each student will complete a reflective project that is acceptable to the professor and the student. Examples of projects include a paper, attendance at a tutorial, or a presentation.
4. **Final Evaluation.** A final evaluation from each student's supervisor is required that includes confirmation of the hours worked during the semester. The form of the evaluation will be provided by the professor. Students are responsible for ensuring supervisors submit timely final online evaluations.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL POLICIES AND RESOURCES:

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: It is expected that students adhere to the George Mason Academic Standards. The Standards prohibit, for example, lying, cheating, or stealing and apply to your conduct in the externship. This includes a student obligation to never represent the work of another as their own and to never provide or accept unauthorized assistance on any school related assignment. The Academic Standards are available here: [Academic Standards](#)

In accordance with Academic Regulation 4-3, students in the externship courses may NOT use Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) in their research, writing, or other work generated for their employer unless the site supervisor expressly agrees to its usage on a project(s), and supervisor approval is shared with the externship professors. In these instances, supervisors must specify the parameters of the usage and disclosure obligations. Students are reminded that using GAI may expose client or employer confidences, and some employers are prohibiting the use of GAI in any writing samples submitted as part of an application process. Failure to abide by this policy and Academic Regulation 4-3 is a violation of the Academic Standards.

General Support: If you need support in any way during your externship, please reach out to one of us. Remember also that GMU provides a range of student support resources such as **Counseling and Psychological Services** (<https://caps.gmu.edu/>), **Student Health Services** (<https://shs.gmu.edu/>), and the **Student Support and Advocacy Center** (<https://ssac.gmu.edu/>).

For more information about University Life and other resources on the Arlington Campus, please visit: <https://ularlington.gmu.edu/>