

Contact Information: ssmerlin@gmu.edu

The purpose of this course is to prepare students for effective participation in the 2025 Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. The course is divided into two parts: (1) contribution to the team's written memorials and (2) preparation for oral arguments at the national and global Jessup competition. The team members and team advisers will agree upon the division of topics to be covered by each student team member in the memorials and in the oral arguments.

Students must read all competition materials, including the *compromis* and documents contained within the First and Second Batch Materials provided by the International Law Students Association (ILSA). Students must also familiarize themselves with the ILSA Guide to International Moot Court Competition and the Official Rules of the 2025 Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. In the course of preparing the team's written memorials, students are expected to effectively utilize both primary and secondary source materials from a variety of international tribunals, scholars, organizations, and publications.

By the end of this course, students will be able to argue fundamental principles of international law as they apply to a hypothetical fact pattern and will have gained an appreciation for how disputes are resolved before the International Court of Justice.

Course Schedule and Deadlines

Written Memorial Phase

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Draft Memorials Due 11:59pm

Monday, January 13, 2025

Memorials Due to Brief Writer by 5pm

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Deadline for Submission of Final Team Memorials

Oral Arguments Phase

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

1st Practice Oral Argument

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

2nd Practice Oral Argument

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

3rd Practice Oral Argument

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

4th Practice Oral Argument/video assignment

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

5th Practice Oral Argument (Applicant)

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

5th Practice Oral Argument (Respondent)

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

6th Practice Oral Argument

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

7th Practice Oral Argument

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

No Class

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

8th Practice Oral Argument

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

9th Practice Oral Argument

February 26- March 1, 2025

Preliminary Rounds, Jessup Moot Court Competition

March 5, 2025

Course Wrap-up

April 2025

International Rounds, Jessup Moot Court Competition

Law 126-001 | Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition | Spring 2025 | 2 credits

Professor(s): Sarah Smerling

Tues. 8:10 – 10:10 pm EST | Final Exam: N/A

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the following factors:

	Oral Argument Participant	Brief Writer
Compromis Summary/Sample Questions	N/A	15%
Contribution to Team Memorial	40%	40%
Preparation for and Performance at Oral Rounds	50%	10%
General Participation, including attendance at team meetings and administrative aspects of preparing for the competition	10%	35%