LAW IN THE UNITED STATES
Law 686 – Fall 2015
Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:45-11:35 a.m.
Room A232

Instructor: Nicole Hughes
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Course Objectives: To introduce international law students to the basic structure, characteristics and operation of the legal systems of the United States. To provide introduction to legal methodology in the United States. To provide an introductory overview of several major fields of substantive law in the United States.

Required Text: William Burnham, Introduction to the Law and Legal System of the United States, Fifth Edition (2011)

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Law school attendance policies are applicable to this class. You are responsible for monitoring your compliance with these policies.

Midterm In-class Essay: Approximately halfway through the semester, students will write an in-class essay, covering a topic we have discussed in class.

Final Exam: There will be a final closed-book examination for this course. This examination will be a floating exam, which can be taken between November 30, 2015 and December 16, 2015.

Grading: The final grade in this course will be determined by the Final Exam (75%) and the midterm in-class essay (25%). The instructor reserves the right to raise or lower the final grade by a .5, in her discretion, based on a student's class participation or lack thereof.

Accommodations: To request disability accommodations, please contact the Office of Disabilities Services at (205) 348-4285. After initial arrangements are made with that office, contact me to discuss the accommodations or any other special needs.

Schedule and Assignments (all assignments subject to change by announcement):

Date	**Topic**	**Reading (Burnham)**
Monday, August 17	Introductions/Syllabus	None
Wednesday, August 19	History and Structure	Chapter I
Monday, August 24	Legal Methodology	Chapter II

Wednesday, August 26	Adversary System and Jury Trials	Chapter III
Monday, August 31	Legal Profession	Chapter IV
Wednesday, September 2	The Judicial System	Chapter V, Part I
Monday, September 7	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	
Wednesday, September 9	The Judicial System	Chapter V, Part II
Monday, September 14	Civil Procedure	Chapter VII, Part I
Wednesday, September 16	Federalism and Civ. Procedure	Chapter VII, Part II
Monday, September 21	Criminal Procedure	Chapter VIII, Part I
Wednesday, September 23	Constitutional Criminal Procedure	Chapter VIII, Part II
Monday, September 28	Constitutional Law	Chapter IX, Part I
Wednesday, September 30	Individual Rights	Chapter IX, Part II
Monday, October 5	MIDTERM IN-CLASS ESSAY	
Wednesday, October 7	TBA	
Monday, October 12	Contract Law	Chapter X
Wednesday, October 14	Contract Law continued	Chapter X
Monday, October 19	Tort Law	Chapter XI
Wednesday, October 21	Tort Law continued	Chapter XI
Monday, October 26	Property Law	Chapter XII
Wednesday, October 28	Property Law continued	Chapter XII
Monday, November 2	Family Law	Chapter XIII
Wednesday, November 4	Family Law continued	Chapter XIII
Monday, November 9	Criminal Law	Chapter XIV

Wednesday, November 11	Criminal Law continued	Chapter XIV
Monday, November 16	Business Law	Chapter XV
Wednesday, November 18	Business Law continued	Chapter XV
Monday, November 23	TBA	