Special Problems in International Law  
Private International Law Seminar  
Syllabus (Part 1) 

Prof. Henning  
Spring 2013 

This seminar provides students with an introduction to the field of private international law. We will study specific international instruments in effect in the United States, such as the U.N. Convention on the International Sale of Goods and the Cape Town Convention. We will also explore specific issues now under active consideration in various international organizations, especially the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), the U.N. Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), and the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH).  

Course Material  

There is no required text for the course. We will read quite a number of law review articles, and numerous documents will be posted in the library’s e-reserves.  

Paper Requirements  

This is a research and writing seminar and each student must prepare a well-researched paper on an approved topic of current importance. The paper will then be presented by the student to the class for discussion. The paper should be 25-30 pages, double spaced, with appropriate formatting and footnoting. Each student must turn in an outline of the proposed paper, a preliminary draft, and a final paper that incorporates the professor’s feedback on the preliminary draft. The following schedule must be met:  

Selection of topic by January 22  
Outline by February 12  
Preliminary Draft by March 12  
Final paper by April 5  

Assignment for January 8  


Please also visit the websites of UNIDROIT (www.unidroit.org), UNCITRAL (www.uncitral.org), and HCCH (www.hcch.net). In particular, follow the links that lead you to descriptions of the organizations and their missions, and browse through the current projects on their agendas.
Further Assignments

Further assignments will be posted after we discuss potential topics during class on January 8.

**Office Hours.** My office is Room 317 and my office hours are 10:00-11:30 Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Students are welcome at other times as long as I am in my office. If you want to be certain that I am available at a particular time, please make an appointment.

**Attendance Policy.** Class attendance is required. A student who misses more than two classes without an excuse will be dropped from the course.

**Law School Disability Policy.** The Law School is committed to meeting the needs of students with physical, learning, and other disabilities, and to that end provides appropriate accommodations and services tailored to each student’s specific requirements. The Law School’s assistant deans and the University’s Office of Disability Services work together to help students with disabilities achieve and maintain autonomy. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Claude Reeves Arrington, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at (205) 348-6557 or carrington@law.ua.edu with regard to the student’s needs for support services.
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Assignment for January 15:

  ● Text of the CISG
  ● Overview of the CISG
  ● Article 95 Declaration by United States
  ● Proposal to Withdraw Article 95 Declaration
  ● Proposal by Switzerland to expand the scope of the CISG
  ● Gabriel analysis of Swiss proposal
  ● U.S. response to Swiss proposal

Assignment for January 22:

Secured Transactions Laws (including Indian laws)
  ● Article describing Model Tribal Secured Transactions Act
  ● Material on UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions
  ● Material on UNCITRAL agenda for meeting of April 8-12, 2013
  ● Material on UNIDROIT Cape Town Convention

January 29 – No Class

Assignment for February 5

Hague Choice of Courts Convention
  ● Text of the Convention
  ● Analysis of the Convention
  ● ULC Study Committee Report on the Convention and Implementation through State Law
  ● Text of Uniform Choice of Court Act