

Reykjavík University

List of courses taught in English -Fall 2016 and Spring 2017. The courses are only open for Master students.

Fall 2016

Courses 7.5 ECTS	Lecturers
EEA Law Moot Court Competition	Gunnar Thór Pétursson
International and European Energy Law – Icelandic Energy Law	Fanney Rós Þorsteinsdóttir and Eduardo Pereira
International Protection of Human Rights	Davíð Þór Björgvinsson
Legal English	Erlendína Kristjánsson
Refugee Law	Katrín Oddsdóttir
The Law of the World Trade Organization	Þórdís Ingadóttir and James Mathis

Spring 2017

Courses 7.5 ECTS	Lecturers
European Company Law	Hallgrímur Ásgeirsson
European Law: State Aid and Competition	TBA
European Law: Internal Market	Gunnar Þór Pétursson
International Courts and Dispute Settlements	Þórdís Ingadóttir
International Law and the Arctic	Bjarni Már Magnússon
Intellectual Property Rights in International Commerce; IP Agreements	Hafliði K. Lárusson

* This course is only available to those able to take both part I and II. Students must be present and enrolled in both the fall and spring semesters. Students have to apply especially for this course

Fall 2016

L-719 EEA Moot Court Competition

7.5 ECTS

Semester: Fall 2016

Level of Course: Master Level, advanced

Type of course: Elective

Schedule: TBA

Lecturer: Gunnar Thór Pétursson

Content: The EEA Moot Court Competition is to be held in Iceland for the first time in 2016. The competition will consist teams competing in a moot court setting, in front of competent judges. The competition will consist of a written stage and an oral final stage. Furthermore, the course will consist of a preparatory stage. The overall aim of the course is to give students an opportunity to work on various areas of EU/EEA law through a challenging Moot Court Competition. Participation in this course and in the competition should strengthen students' knowledge of EU/EEA law, raise their analytical and research skills, and give them confidence in oral presentation.

Learning outcome - Objectives:

-Knowledge: After completing this course the students should possess good knowledge and understanding in the core features of EU/EEA law, particularly its key case. The students should, furthermore, be able to provide good and solid arguments for their own independent solutions. The EEA Moot Court Competition enables students to put this knowledge in real and relevant context and receive substantiated feedback.

-Skills: This course gives the students the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding in a professional context, where they will be able to deal with complex and real issues, even in new and unfamiliar situations. In this course the students will be required to integrate their knowledge through the development of legal opinions and present it both in written form and orally. In that sense the students should be able to demonstrate proficiency in applying professional methods and procedures acknowledged in the field of law.

- Competences: After completing this course the students should be able to apply their knowledge and skills in a professional and practical way. They will learn to work independently, but also in groups. Furthermore, they should be able to communicate and present their knowledge and findings in a professional manner, and for most, even in a foreign language.

Course assessment: This is a pass/fail course. No formal grades are given. The course assessment is based upon the students' performance and outcome of the both the written submissions and the oral arguments.

Reading Material: EEA law moot court bundle and more, to be further announced.

Language of instruction: English

L-712 International and European Energy Law – Icelandic Energy Law 7.5 ECTS

Semester: Fall 2016

Level of course: Master level, advanced

Type of course: Elective

Schedule: 36 lectures or discussions, periodical organisation

Lecturer: Fanney Rós Þorsteinsdóttir and Eduardo Pereira

Content: The course provides an overview of the organizational and regulatory framework concerning the energy sector, acknowledging the importance of energy on a global scale. The course is divided into two parts. The first and main part (6 ECTS) covers the principal legal and policy issues relating to international and European energy affairs. The second part (1.5 ECTS) is concerned with the legal framework of the Icelandic energy market. The students can choose to complete either 6 ECTS or 7.5 ECTS. The first part of the course deals with international energy relations and discusses the global quest for energy resources and the role of the major actors on the energy market. In this part the main policy and legal issues and principles governing the energy supply chain, i.e. generation, transmission and consumption, in the EU will be covered. A special focus will be on renewable energy matters and legal issues related to emission trading. In this part energy-specific regulation, the role of courts and international institutions in general will also be discussed. The second part of the course covers the legal framework of the Icelandic energy market. It focuses on Iceland's obligations under the EEA-agreement in the field of energy and legal issues related to implementation of the relevant EU directives into national law.

Learning outcome - Objectives: At the completion of the course the student should have:

Acquired basic knowledge of the legal and institutional framework in the field of energy law in the international and European context and be able to identify and explain the main principles and legal issues related to generation, transmission and consumption of energy. Students should also have acquired basic knowledge of the legal framework governing the Icelandic energy market, its main characteristics and identify possible legal relations and problems.

-Knowledge: At the completion of the course the student should be able to apply energy law to issues relevant in the energy sector. This involves among other things that the students are able to find, interpret and apply legal sources of the relevance for the energy sector and able to apply international and European laws when working on projects concerning the energy sector

-Skills: At the completion of the course the student should have knowledge and skills, to be put in practical use and/or for further study. This involves that students have (1) developed competence and sufficient independence for further study in energy law, (2) ability to work independently and in organised manner on topics concerning the energy sector, and (3) the ability to interpret, explain and present theoretical issues concerning energy law.

Course assessment: *First part:* Assignment 40%, presentations 20% and exam 40%. *Second part:* Assignment 70%, presentations 20% and participation in class 10%

Reading material: Selection of book chapters and articles

Teaching and learning activities: Lectures and discussions

Language of instruction: English

L-760 International Protection of Human Rights

7.5 ECTS

Semester: Fall 2016

Level of course: Master level, advanced

Type of course: Elective

Schedule: 30-38 lectures/discussions pr. semester

Lecturer: Davíð Þór Björgvinsson

Content: Firstly, the international system for human rights protection will be introduced by a discussion of the substantive protection and control mechanisms of key human rights conventions. Secondly, the theoretical background, basic concepts and development of international human rights protection will be dealt with as well as the interpretation of human rights instruments. Thirdly, a selected field of substantive rights will be treated. Finally, students are expected to conduct a small research project under the supervision of the course organiser.

Learning outcome - Objectives:

Firstly, the international system for human rights protection will be introduced by a discussion of the substantive protection and control mechanisms of key human rights conventions. Secondly, the theoretical background, basic concepts and development of international human rights protection will be dealt with as well as the interpretation of human rights instruments. Thirdly, a selected field of substantive rights will be treated. Finally, students are expected to conduct a small research project under the supervision of the course organiser.

-Knowledge: Knowledge of international human rights protection has become an important competency in many respects. It is relevant to attorneys, judges, civil servants and in business. The learning objectives of the seminar are the following: - Knowledge of the structure of the international system for the protection of human rights, its theoretical background and development, - understanding of the nature and function of international human rights protection

-Skills: Skills in theoretical analysis of the main aspects of international human rights protection and in the presentation of results, both in oral and written form

-Competences: The competence to understand the nature and purpose of international human rights protection and to be able to analyse disputed matters in this area, both in future work and further studies.

Course assessment: Project 50%, written final exam 50%.

Reading material: TBA

Teaching method: Lectures, seminars and assignments.

Language of instruction: English

L-601 Legal English

7.5 ECTS

Semester: Fall 2016

Level of course: Master level, advanced

Type of course: Elective

Schedule: 30-38 lectures per semester

Lecturer: Erlendína Kristjánsson

Content: Legal English is a practical course aimed at developing students' skills in using English as a professional language. Students mainly build on their speaking and writing skills in a legal context and work towards increasing their legal vocabulary substantively. Students improve their pronunciation and learn how to apply effective communication strategies for purposes of public speaking activities, such as, professional speeches, presentations, and court cases. The course also provides students with clear guidelines on how to write basic legal texts, such as, professional e-mails, bad-news communication, legal briefs, legal memos, and international sales contracts. The course covers the main writing conventions for purposes of legal drafting and communication with clients as set out by the European Commission and other anti-legalise associations. Students work on texts and complete practical exercises relating to the following themes: court case formats, legal drafting, systems of government – constitutional law, human rights, contracts, company law, and company finance. The course prepares students for the International Legal English by Cambridge University (ILEC exam) and participation in international moots, such as the annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. The course also provides students with the foundations needed to work in international organisations or law firms. The level of the course is equivalent to C1 of the Common Framework of Reference for Language Learning.

Learning outcomes - Objectives:

In terms of knowledge, students will be able to:

- Define the main words and phrases of international contracts
- Define at least 150 new legal terms and phrases
- Describe the main characteristics of legalese
- Explain the main writing formats and structures of legal correspondence.
- Understand the mechanics of legal writing (capital letters, numbers, punctuation)
- List the main theories relating to legal argumentation and logic
- Explain the characteristics of professional speeches and presentations

In terms of skills, students will be able to:

- Write well-structured legal messages
- Devise a bad-news letter
- Learn vocabulary more effectively
- Give a professional speech and presentation
- Present legal arguments in a court setting

In terms of competences, students will be able to:

- Write with grammatical correctness
- Write with effective punctuation marks, correct use of capital letters and numbers

- Express themselves in a well-organised manner
- Communicate with use of the appropriate legal vocabulary

Course assessment: Continuous evaluation with emphasis on small, practical speaking tasks for skills development purposes. No final exam. Speaking (35%): Informative Speech -5% / Persuasive Speech -5% / Class Presentation -10% / Moot -15%. Writing (30%): Bad-news letter -5% / Legal Brief -10% / Test on Legal Writing -15%. Vocabulary Tests (35%): Test 1 -15% / Test 2 -20%.

Reading material: TBA

Teaching and learning activities: Short lectures, practical language assignments and discussions.

Language of instruction: English

L-883 Refugee law

7.5 ECTS

Semester: Fall 2016

Level of course: Advanced, specialised course

Type of course: Elective

Prerequisite(s): The same course "*Flóttamannaréttur*" is taught in Icelandic in the fall of 2017. Students who have completed a comparable course, 3.75 ECTS, are not eligible for the course

Schedule: 30-38 classes per semester

Lecturer: Katrín Oddsdóttir

Description: Refugee law is closely linked to various other branches of the law and it is a growing field, both in Iceland and, of course, in a global context. Tremendous changes have occurred in recent months and the number of refugees has rarely, if ever, been greater. The interfaces of refugee law with human rights law and administrative law are both numerous and important. The course will address the definitions of the concept of "refugee" in the Act on Foreigners No. 96/2002 and the United Nations Convention relating to the status of refugees and examine how the concept has been interpreted in international practice and by Icelandic government authorities. The focus will be on obtaining as comprehensive as possible a picture of the policy area. Also, other key concepts of this field of law will be examined, such as the implications of a "well-founded fear of being persecuted" in a home state.

The course will also examine the reasons that people seek aid outside their home countries, among other things through guest lectures given by refugees and people working in the policy area. Attention will be focussed on the conflicting views that balance against one another in the processing of requests for asylum.

Other legal recourses will be addressed, such as permission for residence on humanitarian grounds, supplementary protection and family reunification. An explanation will be provided of the roles of the Directorate of Immigration, the Red Cross, the Asylum Appeals Board, the Ministry of the Interior and appointed spokesmen for asylum seekers.

The focus will be on obtaining an understanding of how the world situation has changed with the large number of refugees who abandoned their home countries, such as Syria, in 2015 and the experience of the the different approaches taken by the receiving countries from a legal standpoint.

Learning outcomes:

Following completion of the course students should have a sound knowledge of the legal field,

its principal features, concepts and sources of law. Furthermore, students should possess knowledge of the principal legal recourses available to asylum seekers and of the principal reasons for rejections of applications for asylum. Students will be expected to possess an understanding of how refugees' rights interact with other fundamental rights and what rules of administrative law are most important in legal work in the field.

–**Knowledge:** At the end of the course students will possess knowledge of the theoretical aspects of refugee law and an understanding of the interaction of refugee law, human rights and administrative law. Students will be familiar with international law, such as the United Nations Refugee Convention and other relevant commitments under international law.

Students will obtain their knowledge by understanding and recognising the multifaceted nature of refugee law discussed in the course schedule, but in particular by working on assignments linked to the course schedule and addressing the principal aspects of the legal field. The emphasis will therefore be on the students' search for knowledge rather than being fed the course material.

–**Skills:** At the end of the course students will be able to employ the legal methods and procedures of refugee law. This means that students will be able to understand the positions of administrative authorities or refugee spokesmen and draft texts such as administrative decisions or legal opinions citing laws and regulations. Students will acquire these skills through assignments, among other things, where a description of particulars will be provided and students asked to arrive at a conclusion regarding a specific case. Students will also acquire skills in finding information on the status of individual states and their minorities using reliable sources of information, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Students will acquire their skills through independent and disciplined approaches to the tasks assigned and participation in class.

–**Competence:** At the end of the course students should be able to use their knowledge and skills in refugee law in their work or further studies. They should be able to use the underlying methodology and adapt it to other fields relating to human rights and minority rights. Students will have obtained a view of the international status of refugees and gained sufficient insight to participate in in-depth discussions of this field of law based on an in-depth understanding of the underlying principles.

Students will acquire these skills by developing the ability to take an independent initiative in addressing assignments, directing them and assuming responsibility for the work of groups and individuals, as well as arriving at independent and learned decisions with regard to issues and questions in the field of refugee law and conveying information on matters of refugee law in an independent manner, in writing or orally, in the language in question and seeking further knowledge in the field based on an understanding of the need for such further knowledge. Students will have developed the competence to apply critical thinking and draw their own conclusions in issues that may arise concerning refugee law.

Course assessment: Assignments 50%, oral examination 50%.

Reading material: The Law of Refugee Status (2nd ed.), by James C. Hathaway and Michelle Foster.

Teaching methods: Teaching will consist of lectures and discussion periods involving active student participation. Students should expect to be asked questions on the subject in class. Also,

there will be an emphasis on practical resolutions of issues discussed in class, which students will be asked to resolve in group work.

Language of instruction: English

L-801 The Law of the World Trade Organization

7.5 ECTS

Semester: Fall 2016

Level of course: Advanced, specialised course

Type of course: Elective

Prerequisite(s): No prerequisites

Schedule: 30-38 lectures/discussion periods per semester

Lecturer: Þórdís Ingadóttir and James Mathis

Description: The World Trade Organisation provides a legal and institutional framework for the multilateral trading system. The World Trade Organisation is one of the most powerful international organisations in the world, where states and regional unions have undertaken extensive obligations with regard to free trade (trading in goods and services and intellectual property rights). Currently the membership of the World Trade Organisation comprises 162 states and regional unions, including Iceland, the European Union, the United States, China and, most recently, Russia (2012). About 97 per cent of all world trade is conducted under the auspices of the Organisation. The course will provide a detailed overview of the work and rules of the World Trade Organisation. The principal substantive rules of the GATT/WTO will be reviewed, including rules on tariffs, most-favoured-nation treatment, dumping, subsidies and countervailing measures. Also, the course will address the process of disputes by the World Trade Organisation, which includes one of the most influential and most used dispute settlement mechanism of the international community, with mandatory membership and extensive powers. The course will also address special focal points, such as international trade in agricultural goods, the compatibility of the GATT/WTO rules with human rights and increasing disputes between the developing countries and the richer member states regarding the constitution of the Organisation.

Learning outcomes:

–**Knowledge:** The objective of the course is for students to acquire knowledge of the purpose and work of the World Trade Organization and to be familiar with the principles of international trade, including most favoured nation treatment and national treatment. Also, students should acquire an understanding of the interaction between local, regional and international rules, as well as the links between international trade and other fields of law. Students will also acquire an insight and knowledge of the internal activities of the WTO, the nature of negotiations and the decision making process in the organisation.

–**Skills:** Students will possess the knowledge to analyse and resolve issues covered by the rules of the World Trade Organization. Also, students will be able to gather, analyse and assess sources of law in this field. Furthermore, students will obtain an understanding and knowledge of the decision-making process within the World Trade Organisation and the making of international agreements.

–**Competence:** At the end of the course, students should have gained the independence to perceive and analyse issues falling within the domain of the World Trade Organization and the

ability to discover and work with its sources of law and present academically reasoned conclusions. Also, students will have obtained knowledge of the nature of negotiations and the decision-making process within the Organisation. Students will benefit from this competence whether in practice in Iceland or abroad or in further studies.

Course assessment: Practical assignment 50%, written home examination 50%.

Reading material: The Law and Policy of the World Trade Organization, Peter van den Bossche, Cambridge University Press 2013; Case Reader.

Teaching methods: Lectures and discussions

Language of instruction: English

Spring 2017

L-756 European Company Law

7.5 ECTS

Semester: Spring 2017

Level of course: Master level, advanced

Type of course: Elective

Schedule: 36 lectures/discussions pr. semester

Lecturer: Hallgrímur Ásgeirsson

Content: European company law covers a wide range of rules in primary and secondary legislation on companies, in particularly limited liability companies. These rules span the whole lifecycle of a company, from its formation to its winding-up. In practice, legal questions in this field of law are resolved by applying concurrently European law and national law. Although the national company law regimes of the Member States differ widely they are to a large extent based on common principles and harmonised rules in European law. European company law forms a fundamental regulatory framework for many of the essential elements of national company law. Knowledge of European company law therefore facilitates the understanding of the national company law of a particular Member State, as well as the comparison of different national company law regimes. The following topics will be covered:

- *Introduction:* objectives, development and principles of European company law, different forms of companies, primary law and case law.
- *European law and national law:* harmonisation, overview of secondary legislation in the field of company law, interaction between European and national company law, comparative company law, formation of companies and branches in other Member States, and free movement of companies.
- *European law on limited liability companies:* formation and disclosure requirements, capital requirements, consolidation, information requirements and protection of shareholders, accounting and auditing, management and corporate governance, employee participation, mergers and acquisitions, and winding-up.
- *European company structures:* European company (SE), European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG), European Cooperative Society (SCE), and European Private Company (SPE).

Learning outcome – Objectives:

-Knowledge: On successful completion of the course the student will have gained general understanding and knowledge of key legal provisions and theoretical issues in European company law and its interaction with national law of the EU Member States.

-Skills. On successful completion of the course the student will have acquired skills to apply legal theories and methods in European company law and obtained understanding and abilities to deal with subject matters in this area.

- Competences: On successful completion of the course the student will be able to draw from the knowledge and skills gained in European company law in subsequent professional career or studies. The student will have acquired abilities to present and describe theoretical issues in English and to take objective, professional decisions and substantiate them.

Course assessment: Course attendance and participation 20%, written group assignment 30%, final exam (oral) 50%.

Reading material: Primary focus will be on training students to understand, interpret and apply primary law and secondary law (directives and regulations) as well as case law in the area of company law. Moreover, students are required to read selected sections of chosen textbooks introduced during the course

Teaching method: Lectures, discussions and case studies

Language of instruction: English

L-832 European Law: State Aid and Competition

7.5 ECTS

Semester: Spring 2017

Level of course: Master level, advanced

Type of course: Elective

Schedule: 30-38 lessons or discussions during the semester

Lecturers: TBA

Content: The course is intended to give the students a comprehensive overview of the fundamental principles of competition and state aid policy. In particular, the focus will be on the economic rationale underpinning the prohibition of State aid, the State as an actor in competitive markets and the legal framework for state aid review, both the material rules and the institutional set up. The course is based on lectures and discussions in the seminars. During the course, the students will be expected to resolve written and oral assignments to deepen their knowledge in the fields covered by the lectures. The assignments will consist of: a) practical cases where the students will have to come up with a reasoned position as to how to resolve the case. Students must expect that resolving such a case will take the same time as the written exam. b) shorter questions to which students will have to give an answer and identify various options. These tests should not take more than an hour and the purpose is to see whether students have present the knowledge of the fields so far covered.

Learning outcome – Objectives: After the course students should have good knowledge of the field of law covered by the course and be able to resolve practical cases within the field. They should also have knowledge of the procedural and institutional setup for applying the rules, as well as the possibilities for private undertakings to challenge the decisions of the Brussels authorities in the field.

Course assessment: TBA

Reading material: TBA

Teaching method: Lectures and discussions.

Language of instruction: English

L-747 European Law: Internal Market

7.5 ECTS

Semester: Spring 2017

Level of course: Master level, advanced

Type of course: Elective

Schedule: 30-38 lectures/discussions pr. semester

Lecturer: Gunnar Thór Pétursson

Content: The Course deals with the law of the EU/EEA internal market. This substantive law, which is based on the fundamental (economic) freedoms (free movement of goods, freedom of establishment, freedom to provide services, free movement of persons, freedom of the movement of capital and of payments), constitutes the cornerstone of European integration. The aim of this course is to give an in-depth knowledge on this area by focusing not only on the specific freedoms but also on understanding the horizontal issues relevant to all the freedoms as well as understanding the new challenges of the internal market. Therefore, we will test the boundaries of the four freedoms, and analyze the major principles necessary for their proper application. The focus will be on the case law of the Court of Justice, and where appropriate the case law of the EFTA Court. The Course is based on active student participation during seminars. The students will be required to present and discuss the most important cases, and become familiar with reading, analysing and presenting judgments. In addition, the students will be invited to read relevant and topical doctrinal materials in order to stimulate the discussions

Learning outcome – Objectives:

-Knowledge: Once this course is completed the students should have gained a good knowledge of the most recent and relevant case law relating to the fundamental freedoms, relevant for the EU and EEA as a whole. Furthermore, the students should have understood which legal principles and doctrines are necessary for the proper application of the principles of free movement, and therefore, understanding the basic foundations of the internal market. The students should, furthermore, be able to provide good and solid arguments for their own independent solutions.

-Skills: This course gives the students the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding in a real context, where they will be able to deal with complex and current issues. In this course the students will be required to integrate their knowledge through the development of legal opinions and present it both in written form and orally. In particular, the students should acquire the necessary skills to resolve problems that may arise in applying the fundamental freedoms, not least when dealing with the delicate balance between the competences of the Member States versus that of the EU/EEA. In that sense the students should be able to demonstrate proficiency in applying professional methods and procedures acknowledged in the field of law.

-Competences: After completing this course the students should be able to apply their knowledge and skills in a professional and practical way. They will learn to work independently, but also in groups. Furthermore, they should be able to communicate and present their knowledge and findings in a professional manner, and for most, even in a foreign language.

Course assessment: Course attendance and participation (case presentations and discussions) 20%, written paper 50 %, oral (final) exam 30%.

Reading material: TBA

Teaching method: Lectures and discussions.

Language of instruction: English

L-822 International Courts and Dispute Settlements

7.5 ECTS

Semester: Spring semester 2017

Level of course: Advanced, specialised course

Type of course: Elective

Prerequisite(s): None

Schedule: 30-38 lectures/discussion periods per semester

Lecturer: Þórdís Ingadóttir

Description: The course addresses the fundamental principle of international law that states should seek peaceful resolutions of their disputes. Discussions will cover the various methods of resolving disputes, whether diplomatic solutions or court resolutions. They will also cover negotiations, research and dispute settlement. The involvement of the United Nations in the resolution of disputes will be addressed specifically. International courts of law are playing an increasingly large role in the resolution of disputes and detailed discussion will focus on their respective jurisdictions and rules of procedure. The membership of states, international organisations, companies, associations and individuals of these institutions will be examined. Emphasis will be placed on students' ability to assign the above recourses to current disputes. Students will write a research thesis on a topic to be selected in consultation with the instructor. The subject of the essay must fall within the scope of one of 3-4 themes that will be announced at the beginning of the course. At the end of the course students will present their theses in panel discussions.

Learning outcomes:

–**Knowledge:** The objective of the course is for students to obtain a clear understanding of different methods of dispute settlement under international law, the meaning of the available recourses and the differences in their nature. Also, students should acquire a knowledge of international courts of law, their respective jurisdictions and procedures. Students will acquire knowledge of international agreements relating to the resolution of disputes.

–**Skills:** Students will have a clear perception of the different methods used in dispute settlement under international law and acquire an understanding of their use in the resolution of different disputes. Students will develop skills in accessing and interpreting international conventions on the resolution of disputes. Students will develop skills in debating difficult issues in a multinational group of students. Also, students will develop skills in writing a research thesis and working with the sources of international law. Finally, students will gain skills in reading, speaking and writing English.

–**Competence:** At the end of the course students will be able to apply various methods in resolving disputes in the field of international law. Students will have gained an understanding of the possibilities and advantages and disadvantages of different methods. Students will have gained the competence to write a research thesis in the field of international law and to present reasoned conclusions. Also, students will have gained the competence to work with a diverse group of people, as well as to read, speak and write in English. Students will benefit from this competence whether in practice in Iceland or abroad or in further studies.

Course assessment: Thesis and oral presentation 50%, participation in classwork 10%, written home examination 40%.

Reading material: International Dispute Settlement, 5th ed., by J. G. Merills (Cambridge University Press). Selected scholarly articles and judgments.

Teaching methods: Lectures and discussions Students are expected to participate actively in classroom work, whether in group assignments, discussions or presentations. The instructor offers fixed weekly consultation hours, which students are encouraged to take advantage of.

Language of instruction: English

L-766 International Law and the Arctic

7.5 ECTS

Semester: Fall 2016

Level of course: Master level

Type of course: Elective

Schedule: 36 lectures pr. semester

Lecturer: Bjarni Már Magnússon

Content: Climate change and rising oil prices have thrust the Arctic to the top of the foreign policy agenda and raised difficult issues of sovereignty, security and environmental protection. Improved access for shipping and resource development is leading to new international rules on safety, pollution prevention and emergency response. Around the Arctic, maritime boundary disputes are being negotiated and resolved, and new international institutions, such as the Arctic Council, are mediating deep-rooted tensions between Russia and NATO and between nation states and indigenous peoples. The course explains these developments and reveals a strong trend towards international cooperation and law-making. It thus contradicts the widespread misconception that the Arctic is an unregulated zone of potential conflict.

The focus will be on the following issues: Territorial issues in the Arctic, maritime boundaries, extended continental shelves, Arctic straits, environmental protection, indigenous peoples, security, fisheries and issues of special relevance for Iceland.

Learning outcome – Objectives: At the completion of the course the student should be able:

- to find and interpret and apply the primary legal sources of relevance for the Arctic;
- to explain the main controversies and issues of importance for the Arctic;
- to explain the main rights and duties of coastal states, as well as other states' rights and duties, in the Arctic;
- be able to apply international law when working on projects concerning the Arctic.

Course assessment: 40% paper, 30% group assignment and presentation in class, 15% multiple choice exam, 15% class participation.

Reading material: Michael Byers, International Law and the Arctic (Oxford University Press, 2013) and additional material announced later.

Teaching and learning activities: Lectures, group work, seminars and visits.

Language of instruction: English

L-717 Intellectual Property Rights in International Commerce; IP Agreement 7.5 ECTS

Level of course: Master level, advanced

Type of course: Elective

Schedule: 30-38 lectures/discussions pr. semester.

Lecturer: Hafliði Kristján Lárusson

Content: Rapid development in computer science, telecommunications, information technology and biotechnology, along with the globalisation of the economy, characterise modern society. Intellectual property rights play a central role within this development and has commercialisation of intellectual property rights thus grown year by year. This can be seen in companies' business strategy and daily activities alike and it materialises in various commercial agreements which deal with intellectual property rights. The seminar is divided into two parts. The first part gives an overview of different types of intellectual property rights and the role they play in international commerce. The second part discusses various IP agreements, such as licences, assignments, IP in M&A transactions, IP security agreements and more. The course will provide a general overview of the topics mentioned above, using various case studies to cast light on the key issues and putting special emphasis on contract drafting in English

Learning outcome – Objectives:

-Knowledge: At the end of the course, students should be able to recognise the main classes of intellectual property rights and the rules governing these. Also, they should have a good understanding of the role of intellectual property rights in international commerce and know the main types of IP agreements.

Students will obtain such knowledge by being able to understand the key features of intellectual property rights (both registered and unregistered), the importance of technology and technological advancement in the world, how transactions in technology and intellectual property rights take place and what is important in that respect when disputes arise.

-Skills: At the end of the course, students should be able to explain how intellectual property rights can be used either as a “shield” or as a “sword” in international commerce and be able to use different types of IP agreements in that context. Further, they should be able to draft various key provisions in IP agreements written in English. Students will obtain such skills by being able to distinguish between different types of intellectual property rights and which type of IP agreements to be used in each case.

- Competences: At the end of the course, students should be able to evaluate which intellectual property rights should be used to protect a particular product and how to negotiate the relevant IP agreement so as to protect the legitimate interests of the owner of the intellectual property rights in question. Further, students should be able to review draft IP agreements from a critical point of view, amend particular provisions and add others, as appropriate each time. Students will obtain such competence by mastering the subject-matter of the course and the tools discussed to carry out this kind of evaluation. Additionally, students should be able to follow the discussed contract-drafting guidelines.

Course assessment: Oral presentation: 25%; Written essay: 30%; contract drafting project 1: 20%; contract drafting project 2: 25%.

Reading material: *Edison in the Boardroom Revisited – How Leading Companies Realize Value from Their Intellectual Property*; 2) Various articles and other materials on intellectual property

rights and IP commerce; 3) Various articles and other materials on contract drafting and standard-form contracts.

Teaching method: Lectures and discussions.

Language of instruction: English.