

SPRING 2022
SPECIAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Colloquium in Law: International (2 credits)

The International Law Colloquium will bring six (6) leading scholars of international law to St. John's law school to present their work. It is an upper-level course for students who have completed all their 1st year requirements (including constitutional law) and who have a demonstrated interest in international law, national security law, international dispute resolution, cross-border transactions, international trade, or international human rights. It is best suited to students who have already completed International Law, though exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis for students planning to take International Law concurrently. The purpose of the colloquium is to introduce students to advanced research about international law, including about how the scholarship of international law relates to law reform, law creation (including customary international law) and how international law scholars view the role of international law in shaping global political and economic relations.

Students will be required to: (1) read scholarly works (typically articles or book chapters) of the visiting scholars, together with supplemental materials about the topic of the paper, and (2) prepare short reaction papers for each presented work. Prior to the presentations, students engage with the subject matter in a preparatory class held as a seminar with the professor. At the presentations, students engage in discussion with the visiting scholars about their work.

Grades are based on the quality of the reaction papers and participation in the colloquium.

If you have any questions about the course, please email Professor Peggy McGuinness at mcguinm@stjohns.edu.

NEW COURSES:

Contemporary Criminal Justice Seminar (2 credits)

This course dissects the high-profile March 2021 exonerations of George Bell, Gary Johnson, and Rohan Bolt, three Queens men who each served 25 years in prison for a double-murder they did not commit. The course will explore how the three men were wrongfully arrested, prosecuted, and convicted, and how criminal cases in general can, and do, go wrong. The course will cover the role of politics and the media, police misconduct, the use of cooperating witnesses and jailhouse informants, false confessions, prosecutorial misconduct and judicial bias, the impact of wrongful convictions on the accused, the victims, and their families, the mechanics of investigating wrongful convictions, conviction integrity units, and the intricacies of post-exoneration litigation. This class will be of particular interest to students seeking to become prosecutors or defense attorneys, or those otherwise planning to work within the criminal justice system. Grades will be based on a research paper analyzing another wrongful

conviction case (this paper could be used to satisfy the scholarly writing requirement), in-class participation, and a short reflection paper. Prerequisite: Criminal Law.

Feminist Theories and Feminist Judgments (2 credits)

This course will expose students to a variety of feminist legal theories and their applications. With an understanding of these critical theories, we will carefully examine various judicial writings, examining them for gender assumptions and power hierarchies. The focus is on key judicial decisions on gender issues and how opinions might be different if judges used feminist methods and perspectives when deciding cases. Students consider the promises, both fulfilled and unfulfilled, and limits of these judicial opinions. Students will consider the role of critical feminist theory in law and judicial opinions and experiment with applying it to rewrite a judicial opinion. Grades will be based on a rewrite of a judicial opinion applying feminist legal theories and other shorter written reflections and commentary.