

**British Legal Methods Program – Syllabus  
Spring Semester 2012  
Professor Adrien K. Wing**

**Course description**

The educational purpose of British Legal Methods is to offer a clinical setting within which American law students can study English law and practice, thereby providing a practical as well as a theoretical basis for comparing the American and British legal systems. Specific educational objectives of the program include instruction in the professional skills and responsibilities of British lawyers, the study of legal traditions and institutions, and the examination of trial practice and procedure. Through personal observation and first-hand experience, students will discover the common legal traditions shared by The United States and Great Britain, as well as differences in professional responsibilities, practices and procedures. This course awards three units of academic credit on a pass/fail basis.

**Requirements**

1. Students have been assigned on Mondays to be based in London law offices under the supervision and guidance of an experienced barrister. You have been informed that you may occasionally have to travel long distances within and outside London to attend trials, and to pay for the cost of transportation yourself. There may be a few Mondays where you will not be able to meet with your barristers due to a program activity. These dates will be announced in advance. There may be a dinner at Inner Temple with barristers that is open to the whole program as well. There will be a visit to the new Supreme Court and other courts as well.
2. Very conservative business attire is required to be worn to court. For men, this is a dark suit or sport coat with dress pants, a tie, and dress shoes. For women, there is more flexibility. A pant suits, skirt suits or dress can be worn. Please wear long sleeves and no low cut blouses or dresses. Wear or bring flat dress shoes due to the possibility of extensive walking. Cocktail dresses or other party outfits should not be worn to court.

For the classroom component:

3. Students will attend a weekly seminar from 1:45-3pm on Tuesdays. The seminar will feature discussions of student experiences, as well as legal ethics issues, British legal research methods, and the training of barristers and solicitors. There will be guest speakers. We will take field trips to various local legal institutions.
4. Students will maintain journals describing their experiences and will meet individually with me throughout the semester.
5. Later in the semester, students are required to give oral presentations and submit a short seminar paper on an aspect of the British legal system.
5. Students in British Legal Methods are also required to enroll in the one-hour English Legal System course.

**Specific dates (be aware that all speakers and dates for speakers are subject to change). Some makeups may have to be scheduled as well. Sessions with speakers will be open to all London Law consortium participants.**

Tuesday, 10 January

Introductory meeting. Review Syllabus and frequently asked questions.

Thursday, 12 January

6:15-7:30 reception at Chambers of Professor Mark Wyeth, Queens Counsel, 5 Paper Buildings business dress required. Some of your barristers may be at this event.

17 January

Individually discuss experiences with barristers, the nature of court proceedings, and impressions of the British Legal System.

24 January

Meet as a group in the classroom for a brief discussion of English legal research. Walk to the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies for a tour and individual library exercises.

31 January

Visit to the office of John Van de North, partner O'Melveny & Meyers to discuss international practice. Business dress required.

7 February

No class. Meet individually with me to discuss journal entries and experiences with barristers over the past few weeks.

14 February

Guest speaker: Wilma Morrison or colleague from Central London Law Centre. The Centre provides legal advice in the areas of employment, housing, and immigration law for low income and unemployed people in London.

21 February

Guest speaker: Francis Davis or colleague, Casework Lawyer, Crown Prosecution Service.

28 February

Guest speaker: Makbool Javaid, partner Simons Muirhead -- practice in the UK: labor, antidiscrimination, treatment of Muslims

6 March

Meet with me for the second set of individual appointments. Send me copy of second set of journal entries and research paper topic before conference.

Week of 12 March – SPRING BREAK

20 March

Guest Speaker: James Ormrod or other colleague, associate general counsel, Hewlett-Packard

27 March

no class --circulate drafts of papers to all participants to read

3 April

student presentations

10 April

finish student presentations:

19 April

No Seminar this week. Student papers and final journal entries should be emailed to me no later than 9:00am on Friday April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Required Text:**

Darbyshire, Penny, *English Legal System* (Nutshells Series, Sweet & Maxwell, 9<sup>th</sup> ed, 2009). The text is the same required for the English Legal system course. We may use it as a reference. You will not have specific assignments.