

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA

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LL.M. Program
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STUDENT INFORMATION HANDBOOK
2015-2016

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Goals and Objectives of the Master of Laws Degree (LL.M.)

The AUA LL.M. program aims to prepare high-caliber, English-speaking legal professionals with a high sense of integrity, who are conversant in international best practices in the field of law and committed to serving in both public and private sectors.

The AUA LL.M. program is proud of the scores of professionals and scholars who have gained new skills and insights through their study at AUA and who apply their knowledge for the betterment of society in public service and private practice. Well-trained attorneys contribute in practical ways to:

- Efficiency and stability of transactions
- Security and protection of investments
- Protection and promotion of fundamental rights and freedoms
- Expedience and fairness in dispute resolution
- Identifying and applying best practice in law and policy
- Prudent design and improvement of laws, regulations, policies, institutions and legal frameworks

Roles and Responsibilities of AUA Law Students

Law students are held to the highest standards of integrity and are expected to devote sufficient time in their studies to excel – that is, to become masters of laws.

Students must:

1. Respect the rights of others, including fellow students, faculty and staff, and all persons in the AUA community at large. This respect includes acting with integrity, holding other members of the AUA community to the same standards, and taking action when necessary to safeguard the values of the university, especially merit-based recognition and equality of opportunity.
2. Read and comply with all AUA policies.
3. Take personal responsibility to learn and understand the mission, goals, and requirements of the AUA LL.M. program.
4. Read course syllabi and take personal responsibility to learn and understand the objectives and requirements of each course in which you are enrolled.
5. Take personal responsibility to attend classes, to arrive at all classes on time so as not to interrupt classes in session, submit all assignments on time, and request permission from the instructor of the course for any exceptions based on an emergency or documented medical excuse.
6. Take personal responsibility to prepare for class, taking into account that as a general rule you need to spend a minimum of 2 hours to prepare for each hour of class time. This means for a regular course load, you should plan to spend at least 16 hours a week in preparation for classes. These minimum standards are expected of you whether you are employed or not because it is your choice to study at AUA.
7. Take personal responsibility to be proactive in your own education, to research and investigate issues for your own edification, and to practice and develop the research and analytical skills that you need to excel in your future career. Lawyers are expected to educate themselves on new topics and developments in the law. Law

school is a time to acquire and hone this habit and skill. The materials provided to you for courses are just the minimal starting point and are meant as a guide to further research and reading that you should undertake on your own.

8. Learning from others is also a skill that lawyers are expected to have. This means that you are responsible for listening to and learning from your classmates and instructors during classroom discussions, and learning from your mistakes on assignments and exams. The AUA LL.M. Program encourages students in their last year of study to seek out internships and clinical opportunities in the field of law and the Program will work with you to confer credit for documented clinical activities.
9. Take personal responsibility to communicate with instructors both in class and during faculty hours when a lecture or assignment is not understood.
10. Work individually on all assignments, tests and exams, unless projects are assigned to teams or groups by faculty.
11. Engage in constructive interactions with faculty and administrators to resolve problems.
12. Take personal responsibility to meet obligations for payment of tuition and other fees.
13. Identify and develop career goals as a result of studies that further the AUA LL.M. Program mission.
14. Become members of the AUA community and take advantage of the many opportunities AUA provides its students outside the classroom.
15. Conform to the highest level of ethical standards in all areas of academic life at AUA.

Degree Requirements

The LL.M. degree requires completion of a minimum of 30 credits (roughly 10 law courses) over 4 semesters (2 years), including the Master's Paper and at least one course in environmental studies in satisfaction of the university-wide environmental studies requirement. Usually students take 2 courses each fall and 3 courses each spring earning between 9 and 6 credits per semester.

There are 4 required courses LW 350 (Business Organizations), LW 334 (European Convention on Human Rights), LW 390 (Master's Paper), and LW 365 (Administrative Law), typically one per term. The remaining courses toward the degree are electives selected by students in consultation with their academic adviser. Students are encouraged to be proactive in designing a program suitable for their career and educational goals. Some may choose to concentrate in public or private law; others may prefer to pursue a more general course of study. Students may also take courses outside of the LL.M. program with the permission of the Program Chair (usually limited to 1 course for the degree).

Unless otherwise noted, each course carries three credits and academic performance is evaluated through midterm and final exam, class assignments and participation in class discussions.

While the majority of students complete all requirements in two years, the maximum period for completion is three academic years after which degree candidacy will automatically terminate. A course load less than 6 or greater than 9 credits per semester requires prior approval from the Program Chair.

All courses must be taken on a letter grade basis. A cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher is required for graduation.

It is the students' responsibility to make sure that they have fulfilled all requirements for timely graduation. If you have any questions, please check with the Registrar's Office or the LL.M. Program Chair.

Grading

The grade components, factors and the grading criteria will be clearly stated in course syllabi. Factors and criteria may include, but are not limited to, performance on exams, written or oral assignments, attendance, class preparation and participation. Each instructor exercises his or her professional judgment in selecting evaluation methods suitable for a specific course. Thus, grading practices may vary from course to course and it is the students' responsibility to assure that they understand the measurement techniques and standards applicable to each course.

Instructors do not give grades. Students earn grades. Exams and assignments provide students with opportunities to check their progress and demonstrate that they have mastered the course content – that is, the skills and knowledge taught. It is up to the student to do his or her best work on each and every assignment and exam. If a student does not understand the assignments and grading system for a course, the student should contact the instructor for clarification.

Grading Guidelines (rev. August 2014)

Grading guidelines for LL.M. students are listed below. Percentages are rounded to the closest integer.

Grade	Curve Range	
A+	0-2%	
A	7-15%	
A-	16-23%	Maximum for A tier is 40%
B+	24-35%	
B	Remainder	
B-	4-8%	
C/D/F	0-5%	

Students are required to take tests, exams and quizzes when they are scheduled by the instructor. In the event that a student misses a test, exam or quiz, the instructor is under no obligation to give a make-up, unless the student brings convincing, objective evidence that it was impossible for the student to take it at the scheduled time due to a medical or other emergency. Students should give instructors written notice of any absences from tests, exams or quizzes BEFORE the test, exam or quiz. In the event of an unscheduled quiz, the student should have a good reason for absence. If there is no good reason for the absence, it is up to the instructor to decide how or whether to give a make-up exam or take into account the missing work when calculating the final grade. For more details on grades, see AUA Grading policy (rev. July 2014) both in AUA Policies and LL.M. Program webpages.

LL.M. Curriculum

AUA Law offers a curriculum designed to enhance the legal skills and knowledge of Armenian professionals. Course covering a wide variety of topics, including international, European and comparative law, are designed to help students develop such important competencies as:

- *Practical Skills*: legal research, analysis and writing; policy based advocacy for issues and clients; trial monitoring and monitoring of a legal system in light of national and international standards
- *Practical Knowledge*: substantive and comprehensive knowledge of domestic and international legal rules, jurisprudence and policies
- *Practitioner Competency*: how to advise a client on the main issues that may arise in a typical transaction or dispute; how to explain to foreign clients, in a context that they understand, the requirements of Armenian law.

Our aim is to enhance each student's competence and confidence as a legal practitioner so that they can advance in their careers as professionals.

LL.M. Student Learning Outcomes

AUA Law has identified a list of practical skills and knowledge that it offers students through its courses. A competency matrix identifies the skills and knowledge imparted in each course. The competency matrix is posted on the AUA Law web page.

LL.M. Competencies can be listed as follows:

1. Legal Research

1.1. Sources

The ability to research, properly cite, and analyze primary and secondary sources of both Armenian and English-language foreign law, including constitutions, statutes, regulations, court decisions, and treaties or conventions.

1.2. Weight

The ability to assess the continuing validity, relevance, weight, applicability and use of sources of law in relation to the topic of research or the legal problem presented.

2. Legal Analysis

2.1. Statutory Construction

The ability to read, understand, and analyze a statute by:

- Employing standard rules of statutory interpretation
- Identifying the statutory elements which are subject to interpretation
- Identifying and applying case law precedent, regulations, and other sources of law to define statutory terms and general meaning
- Reading for underlying policy rationale.

2.2. Precedent

The ability to read, understand and analyze a judicial decision by:

- Employing standard methods of case analysis (identifying relevant facts, applicable rule(s), issues, holdings and policy rationales)

- Comparing and contrasting cases, identifying lines of precedent, recognizing dicta, noting procedural posture, and reading for *ratio decidendi*.

2.3. Legal Problem-solving

The ability to solve factual legal problems by:

- applying appropriate rules to factual situations, identifying rules that do not apply to a factual situation, forecasting decisions/results based on application of appropriate rules
- identifying standard legal arguments and policy rationales underlying a source of law and generating and evaluating the efficacy of counterarguments
- identifying gaps, conflicts and ambiguities among sources of law
- identifying factual evidence that supports or controverts a particular legal position, and assessing weight or value of evidence
- identifying a source of law that supports or controverts a particular legal position, and assessing weight or value of such law.

2.4. Law in Context

The ability to explain a source of law and its implications by:

- generating hypothetical examples of when a rule would apply or not apply, and if it applies, the ability to forecast the result of application
- explaining legal concepts in their diachronic (historical/evolutionary) dimension, synchronic (systemic/functional) dimension, as well as in regard to economic, cultural and social justice perspectives.

3. Legal Writing & Advocacy

3.1. Objective Writing

The ability to write an objective assessment of a factual legal problem, such as a client advisory letter or a legal memorandum.

3.2. Persuasive Writing

The ability to write a persuasive legal document.

3.3. Routine Documents

The ability to draft in English basic legal documents like due diligence reports on companies or transactions, powers of attorney, legal entity charters, corporate resolutions, employment agreements, sales agreements, and other contracts.

3.4. Oral Presentation and Advocacy Skills

The ability to make objective oral presentations as well as engage in oral argumentation in support of a legal position.

4. Practitioner Competencies

4.1. Issue Spotting

The ability to advise a client regarding:

- The principal issues likely to arise while undertaking a particular transaction
- The principal issues likely to arise during a particular dispute
- The relevant documents and information which will be needed during representation
- The likely scenarios, outcomes and future consequences.

4.2. Comparative Law Advising

The ability to advise and explain, both local and foreign legal requirements, in a manner which is most understandable to either a local client or a foreign client, depending on their legal frame of reference, for:

- common matters such as incorporation, purchases of real property or shares, loans, secured transactions, employment agreements, etc.
- basic tax issues
- basic intellectual property rights issues
- basic environmental issues (e.g., zoning, pollution and toxic disposal, nature protection, public and worker safety)
- basic criminal law and criminal procedure matters (e.g., basic elements of crimes, standards of proof, right to counsel, limitations on detention, rights of suspect and accused, basic phases of criminal investigation and proceedings)
- basic compliance with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and other anti-corruption measures.

4.3. Outside Expert Assistance

The ability to identify complex legal issues arising in a factual situation which necessitate the involvement of other professionals (i.e. accountants, patent agents, etc.) or specialized advice, in regard to issues of tax, intellectual property, employment, environment, and compliance with anti-corruption measures.

4.4. Negotiation

The ability to prepare and conduct a basic negotiation (e.g. a contract negotiation or a resolution of a contract dispute).

4.5. ADR

The ability to advise clients on dispute resolution options, to evaluate pros and cons of various fora and choice of law provisions and methods of dispute resolution (courts, arbitration, mediation).

4.6. International Disputes

The ability to advise clients involved in international disputes on choice of forum (arbitration, litigation in foreign court) and on the enforceability of decisions of such fora.

4.7. International Relief

The ability to advise clients on availability of relief in international fora (e.g., ECHR) and under international law, as well as applicability of international law in RA.

4.8. International Best Practices

The ability to assess local practice in common situations in light of international best practice, identify differences and causes of differences, and explain differences to local and foreign clients, and policy and law makers.

4.9. Professional Ethics

The ability to identify situations involving professional ethics issues, including conflicts of interest, matters beyond one's competence, and unethical behavior by parties involved in a matter, to know when and how to document and disclose matters to colleagues, to seek specialized advice, and to advise clients in situations raising ethical issues.

5. Substantive Knowledge

5.1. Procedural Law & Fairness

The ability to understand, to recognize elements and to identify violations of both criminal and civil due process.

5.2 **Substantive Law:** Owing to sufficient familiarity with basic norms of substantive law, the ability to cite and/or paraphrase the major legal norms without special research and the ability to identify issues and to efficiently focus on the relevant details of these norms for closer examination.

Law Course Offerings (rev. July 2015)

Undergraduate General Education (offered periodically)

LAW 110 Introduction to Armenian Justice System
LAW 142 Introduction to Human Rights
LAW 160 Law & Justice in Popular Culture

Graduate Courses - LL.M. Program (Required courses offered annually. Electives offered periodically. Check with the LL.M. Program)

LAW 300 International Legal English
LAW 304 Legal Methods & Argumentation
LAW 315 Survey of American Law
LAW 319 Topics in American Law
LAW 330 European Union Law
LAW 334 European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)
LAW 339 Topics in European Law
LAW 340 Public International law
LAW 341 International Law from Armenian Perspective
LAW 342 Human Rights Law
LAW 344 International Criminal Law
LAW 345 Human Rights & Criminal Justice
LAW 348 International Humanitarian Law
LAW 349 Topics in PIL
LAW 350 Business Organizations
LAW 352 International Business Transactions
LAW 354 Tax & Corporate Finance
LAW 356 Intellectual Property
LAW 359 Topics in Business Law
LAW 363 Topics in Comparative Law
LAW 365 Administrative Law
LAW 367 Negotiation & ADR
LAW 369 Topics in ECHR: Post-Soviet and Regional Case-Law
LAW 370 International, European and National Environmental Law
LAW 371 Introduction to Environmental Law
LAW 390 Master's Paper
LAW 391 Independent Study
LAW 392 Clinical

LAW 110 Introduction to the Armenian Justice System

This course explains the institutions and processes of the Armenian justice system as they affect the lives of citizens, businesses and government agencies, including general courts, specialized courts, criminal, civil and administrative processes. The course aims to equip students to understand their rights and remedies for violation of rights, as well as the role of various government bodies, courts, police, prosecutors, regulators, in the administration and establishment of justice in Armenian society. Instructor-led course will draw on case studies to examine a range of common situations students, citizens, and businesses face in everyday life. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week (3 credits)

LAW 142 Introduction to Human Rights

The Introduction to Human Rights course will introduce students to the key concepts, rules and debates in the theory and the practice of contemporary international human rights. In particular, the course focuses on the historical development and philosophical and political foundations of human rights. Students will also explore international and national mechanisms for the protection of human rights, e.g. UN treaty and charter mechanisms, European systems of human rights protection, national judiciaries, human rights institutions and civil society organizations. Students will examine selected human rights and freedoms in order to understand human rights in practice. At the end of the course students study the national and international legal grounds for limitations and derogations from human rights. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 160 Law & Justice in Popular Culture

This course explores how legal concepts, role models, and professional ethos in popular culture promote and reinforce the rule of law. The course aims to explore how dedicated individuals using the skills and arts of persuasive and knowledge of the law can expand justice in their societies by the use of legal mechanisms. Through the medium of film and literature followed by class discussion, the following basic concepts are reviewed: social contract theory, professional ethics, rule of law (e.g. resort to courts and legal structures to resolve conflict as an alternative to violence), comparative review of legal systems (e.g. use of juries, class action mechanisms, etc.) and standard defendant rights (right against self-incrimination, right to counsel), professional responsibility for attorneys and judicial ethics, and legal advocacy. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week (3 credits)

LAW 262 Public Advocacy

Increasingly lawyers, because of their insight into public policy, are called upon to use their skills to advocate in the court of public opinion and other fora beyond the formal courtroom and deliberative assembly. This course aims to equip students with models and skills to be effective public advocates. In addition to learning theoretical models and case studies, students will be called upon to design advocacy strategies and make written and oral presentations in simulations of public deliberation. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 300 International Legal English

This course introduces students to English terminology and constructs related to basic legal concepts and general aspects of legal systems. The course also teaches students to perform legal practice skills in English as they relate to the following commercial law topics: company formation and management; capitalization; contract negotiation; remedies and assignment; employment issues; sale of goods law; real and intellectual property problems; negotiable instruments; secured transactions; debtor-creditor interactions; and competition law. More than other fields, precision and competence in written expression is a tool of the legal profession. The course reinforces core reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in English and prepares students to obtain the International Legal English Certification upon successful completion of the ILEC exam. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 304 Legal Methods and Argumentation

This course is a legal problem solving based introduction to legal method and legal analysis as practiced in Western law today. Students will learn basic research skills, sources of precedent, the role of precedent and the development of precedent in the common law, the reading and "briefing" of cases, the reading and interpretation of statutes, the legal analysis of factual problems, objective legal writing (IRAC method) and basic legal argument. Argumentation

is the use of effective reasoning to persuasively communicate an idea or position. Since classical times, argumentation has been a highly valued skill, even an art form. In this course, students will learn how to make deductive and inductive arguments; how to identify and utilize the elements of rhetoric; how to evaluate the claims, evidence, and inferences underlying arguments; how to understand and manipulate burdens of proof; and generally how to identify and utilize other argumentation frameworks and techniques. To complete the course students must present an argument, field questions from the class and/or participate in a formal debate with another student. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 315 Survey of American Law

This course aims to give an overview of American law for non-US-lawyers. It approaches American law from a comparative, systemic point of view. The course examines the institutions, processes and main substantive areas of US law, viewing US legal system as a well-developed model, whose operation, evolution, problems and trends are well studied and documented. The course requires extensive reading of primary US materials (court decisions, statutes, regulations) as well as secondary sources on US legal doctrines and the American/common law way of thinking about legal problems. Upon completing the course, students should be able to identify the typical ways legal issues are handled in the US system in various common fields of law and to be able to explain them in terms of other legal systems they may be familiar with, e.g., the Armenian or continental legal systems. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week (3 credits).

LAW 319 Topics in American Law

LAW 330 European Union Law

This course gives an overview of the European Union institutional and legal structure, its foundation documents, and regulatory framework, as well as issues relating to transactions and economic activity in the EU. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 334 European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

This course gives an overview of the European Convention on Human Rights and the procedures for appealing cases to the ECHR. Topics include applicability of ECHR in domestic courts, a survey of the most important ECHR precedents and trends. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 339 Topics in European Law

LAW 340 Public International Law

From a legal problem solving perspective this course explores public international law in both an Armenian and regional context. Topics reviewed include sources of public international law and its contemporary development, the expanding scope of international actors (including non-State actors like corporations), the utility of international and domestic fora and reviewing modern day challenges to future public international law development. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 341 International Law from an Armenian Perspective

This problem-oriented course aims is to teach students the specifics of rules of international law as they apply to Armenia and Armenian issues. Topics will include current international law issues facing Armenia, including the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict, EU-Armenia relations, Armenia-Turkey Relations, national security and trans-border environmental and cultural heritage issues. The course is practice oriented, going beyond analysis of applicable legal norms and precedents to consider available enforcement mechanisms, and remedies. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 342 Human Rights Law

By presenting legal problems for discussion and resolution, this course introduces students to the principles and the practice of contemporary human rights law in the world and in an Armenian context. Attention is given to the development of individual claims against states regarding issues of torture; civil and political rights; economic,

social and cultural rights; and women and ethnic minority rights. Also explored are contemporary challenges to international humanitarian law and individual accountability through the development of international criminal law. Sources of law reviewed include international treaties, customary law and Armenian legislation. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW344 International Criminal Law

International criminal law is a rapidly growing modern discipline of law. The historical goal for the development of this discipline was to end the impunity of individuals responsible for mass atrocities. International criminal law is a body of law containing legal provisions, institutions and traditions from public international law, comparative criminal law and human rights law. One of the aims of this course is to introduce students the key areas of international criminal law by engaging them in reading, researching, problem solving exercises and discussion regarding the most important aspects of this discipline. The other aim of this course is to promote interest in international criminal law among the members of the legal community of Armenia. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 345 Human Rights & Criminal Justice

In this course students explore a number of fundamental human rights that are applicable during criminal procedure from the moment of arrest to the final appellate decision. These criminal justice rights are examined in various situations where such a right may compete with other values and public interests, e.g. effective control of and fight against criminality. It is in such situations that different societies or decision-makers and policy-makers engage with complex and often controversial choices. The first part of this course will concentrate on pre-trial rights in the phase of investigation, while the second part focuses on trial rights during trial and appellate phases. The last two classes conclude this course by exploring the causes and solutions of ‘wrongful convictions’, a phenomenon that draws increasing attention in parallel to technological and scientific development. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 348 International Humanitarian Law

This course immerses students in the principles and the practice of contemporary International Humanitarian Law through an evolving complex case study. To teach advocacy and analytical skills, students are assigned various roles as they represent the interests of conflicting parties, divergent governmental interests and international organizations. Taught in conjunction with the ICRC, specific areas of IHL addressed include the qualification of armed conflicts, legal protections for non-combatants, prisoners of war, civilians, and cultural property as well as legal limits on the use of weaponry. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 349 Topics in PIL

LAW 350 Business Organizations

This course focuses on corporations, their formation and structure, the role of shareholders, management, regulators and other stakeholders, capital structures, kinds of securities, corporate financing, open vs. closed companies, and typical transactions and documents involved in corporate formation and investments. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 352 International Business Transactions

This course covers basic international sales of goods and services transactions, leasing, licensing, as well as investment, financial and secured transactions, and the typical kinds of documents and issues practitioners and client face in such transactions, including choice of law, dispute resolution, intellectual property, security, authority, customs, tax and other regulatory matters. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 354 Tax and Corporate Finance

National taxation plays an important role in the public and economic policy of any country, serving many ends: economic, social, political, moral to name a few. However, in light of increasing cross-border mobility of goods, services, capital and labor, taxes became a crucial tool for international policy and economic

competition. This course is an introduction to international aspects of taxation with particular focus on tax competition, double taxation treaties, transfer pricing. The course will also examine how the tax system of Armenia is facing the challenges posed by the rapidly integrating global economy. The Armenian perspective on each of the major topics discussed will be presented throughout the course. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 356 Intellectual Property

This course aims to give students an overview of the kinds of intellectual property rights (copyright, patents, trademarks, trade secrets, etc.) and to introduce the fundamentals of intellectual property law through discussion and analyses of leading US court decisions. The course will also explore the main differences between the European, Armenian and the US Intellectual Property legislation and case law, as well as discuss the main issues involved in IP protection, registration, licensing, and litigation. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 359 Topics in Business Law

LAW 363 Topics in Comparative Law

This course gives an overview of civil and common law systems as well as the methods and sources of comparative law. Topics may include comparative institutions (e.g., courts), comparative substantive law (e.g., contracts or property), or historical and jurisprudential comparisons, and other legal systems (e.g., Islamic law, canon law, Armenia's Datstanagirk). Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 365 Administrative Law

Individuals deal with administrative law from the moment their birth certificate is issued until the issuance of their death certificate, as well as every time they cross a street regulated by traffic lights in between. Administrative law regulates the exercise of many fundamental human rights, such as the freedom of association and assembly, freedom of expression and regulation of media, freedom of religion and free enjoyment of property. In many countries administrative law also regulates the launch and conduct of business, such as business registrations, licenses and inspections. In some countries administrative law governs eligibility for government benefits. Finally, administrative law guarantees judicial review of administrative action as a remedy against unlawful agency action. The aim of this course is to provide students with advanced knowledge of administrative law from Armenian, American and European perspectives, as well as to develop a number of skills necessary for practicing administrative law in Armenia. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 367 Negotiation & ADR

This course aims to give students a framework for conducting orderly and effective negotiations, including preparation for negotiations, techniques and documents for handling typical situations that arise in business negotiations or dispute settlements. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 369 Topics in ECHR: Post-Soviet and Regional Case-Law

During this course students will critically study a number of selected judgments and decision of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in respect of the states in the Eastern and Central European region, as well as by post-Soviet states parties to the ECHR. As a result of such intensive case-studies, students will identify the structural, systemic causes and patterns of violations of the ECHR rights in the region. Students will also become proficient in analyzing, comparing, discussing and presenting complex international judgments. They will be able to identify the applicable judgment, distinguish it from inapplicable judgments and apply it to relevant factual situations to solve legal problems. In addition to regional knowledge on human rights violations and their causes, student will acquire skills for drafting complaints and making submissions to the ECtHR. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 370 International, European and National Environmental Law

Environmental law is a global issue. This problem-oriented course introduces the various international European and national environmental law standards and frameworks applicable to various spheres of environmental concern. This course aims to familiarize students with the key concepts in the field of environment and considers how the environmental law may be used to facilitate environmental protection. The course will discuss the history, development, sources and principles of international environmental law and provide an overview of the international legal system in the context of environmental protection. The course will review the global issues related to environment, such as the environmental impact assessment and public participation, atmospheric protection, climate change, transboundary water and biodiversity to analyze the creation, implementation and effectiveness of international and the national environmental law. The course will address the role that international institutions play in the field of environment. The course will pay particular attention to global environmental problems such as the conservation of biological diversity and the international responses to climate change. The course will examine cross cutting issues, including the relationship between human rights and the protection of the environment. It will present the environment related case-law of the European Court of Human Rights. The course will cover the problems related to mining policy issues in Armenia. The course intends to provide overview of nuclear safety and civil protection legislation of Armenia. Three hours of instructor-led discussion per week. (3 credits)

LAW 371 Introduction to Environmental Law

This course focuses on International and Armenian laws governing issues related to air pollution, water and forest resources protection, biodiversity safety and land contamination. Moreover, the course will provide with a brief introduction to issues related to special protected natural areas and laws regulating specific environmental ecosystems existing in Armenia. Environmental impact assessment (EPA), control over payments for natural resources utilization and environmental pollution fees will be discussed during the course with connection to regulatory mechanisms incorporated into national civil, administrative and criminal legal acts. The course will also include the analysis of local and international case-law related to environmental protection. At the end, a hypothetical case study will be introduced for a mock-trial related to a common environmental law case. One hour of instructor-led discussion per week. (1 credit)

LAW 390 Master's Paper

This is the Program's capstone experience, completed under the supervision of Program's faculty. The Master's Paper requires substantial research and writing and may include field work or case studies. Students shall select topics and determine the appropriate format and kind of research required in conjunction with the faculty advisor. All 2nd Year Students should enroll in this course in the Fall Semester and plan to complete their Master's Paper by the end of the term.

LAW 391 Independent Study

LAW 392 Clinical

Clinical Opportunities

The Clinical Opportunities are designed to permit students to gain practical experience in a law-related institution (e.g., courts, parliament, administrative body, NGO, mediation program) under the supervision of an experienced practitioner or legal researcher. Clinicals are non-credit, extracurricular activities. They are also an opportunity to do public service and gain experience as a practitioner. They should be approached with the same professionalism as any work assignment and with the same seriousness as regular, graded academic work. Clinicals may also involve internships, externships, or research at the AUA Legal Research Center or other approved site. Check with the Program Chair about Clinical Opportunities.

AUA Law Faculty

FACULTY, 2015-2016

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