Course description

A growing number of scholars and development practitioners believe that legal institutions play a crucial role in economic development. This course will survey some of the leading contributions to the academic literature on this topic.

Materials

- Other assigned materials.

The first three items are available in the Professional Bookstore. The other materials will can be obtained in the library and will be posted on Blackboard.

Evaluation

The grade in this course will be based upon a take-home examination due at the end of the exam period. I reserve the right to raise or lower grades one step on the basis of class participation and attendance.

Contact Information

My office hours will be M and W, 11:00-12:00 or by appointment. My contact information is as follows:

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My assistant John Easterbrook can be reached at Easterbrook@juris.law.nyu.edu or by telephone at (212)-998-6617.
Readings

Part I – General Topics

1. **What is development?**


2. **Theories of Economic Development I**


3. **Theories of Economic Development II**


4. **The Law and Development Movements**


5. Corruption


OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions.

Case Study: Acres International


6. Ethnic Tension


Case Study: Bolivia

Part II – Specific Local Legal Institutions

7. **Entry Regulation**

Hernando De Soto, *The Other Path*, Chapters 5 and 6, pp. 131-200.


8. **Civil Procedure**


*Case Study: Indian civil procedure*


9. **Contract Law**


10. **Property Law I – Titling**


*Case Study – Papua New Guinea*

11. Property Law II – Redistribution


12. Property Law III - Inheritance


13. Corporate Law


14. Insolvency Law

Doing Business in 2004, “Getting Credit” and “Closing a Business,” chapters 5 and 6, pp. 55-82.


15. Labour Law

*Doing Business in 2004,* “Hiring and Firing Workers,” Chapter 3 pp. 29-39


*Case Study – Child Labor*


16. Constitutionalism


*Case Study – Property Rights and the South African Constitution*


17. The Challenges of Empirical Analysis


Part III - The Role of the International

18. Colonialism


Case Study – The Caribbean Court of Justice

“The appeal of a new legal independence,” The Times, November 13, 2000


19. International Human Rights


Case Study – The Death Penalty in the Caribbean


20. Trade in Goods and Services


Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

Case Study: Pharmaceuticals


22. Trade in Illicit Goods and Services


23. Migration


Case Study – African Nurses

24. Investment Treaties


Case Study - Argentina

CMS Gas Transmission Company v. The Argentine Republic (May 12, 2005)

25. Sovereign Debt and Debt Relief

William Easterly, The Elusive Quest for Growth, 121-145.


26. Legal Technical Assistance


World Bank, Initiatives in Legal and Judicial Reform, 2004 Edition (Skim the summaries at the end).

Case Study: The Millenium Challenge Account


27. Wrap-Up