Seminar in Contemporary Muslim Legal Systems
(Subject to Change)
Spring Quarter 2012
Prof. Clark Lombardi
Meeting Times: Monday and Wednesday 1:30 - 3:30
Group Office Hours (Law School Café): Wed 3:30,
Individual Office Hours (Office): Tues 2:00-3:00

Course Description

This course is a follow on to the introductory course Islamic Law and the introductory course on comparative constitutional law. It is designed to be a venue in which you can explore different methodological approaches to writing about Islamic law as it is currently applied in the world and about issues of comparative constitutional law. You will read examples of cutting edge scholarship and will work with classmates to prepare your own research project. The goal of the course is to produce a publishable work of scholarship, and papers prepared for this class have, indeed, been published in peer reviewed scholarly journals. Students will be required to present reports on their progress to the class and present their final research.

Texts for the Class

No texts are required for purchase. Readings will be made available

Paper & Grading

This class is graded in an unusual fashion. Classes will focus on the legal systems of important majority Muslim countries and the role of Islamic law in them. Students will be expected to write a 25 -30 page research paper and present it to the class prior to finalizing it. The presentation is worth 10% of your grade, the final paper is worth 90%
| Class #1 | Introduction & Discussion of each student’s initial ideas for research.  
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| Class #2 | The Many Faces of Islam, and the many relationships between Religion and Democratization  
| In Week #2 | Advanced Research Tutorial in Islamic Law or in Comparative Constitutional Law. (Prepared by Suzallo and Gallagher Librarians and Led by Library Staff)  
| Class #3 | Indonesia’s Experience of Democratization and Islamization  
|  | • Robin Bush, Regional ‘Sharia’ Regulations in Indonesia: Anomaly or Symptom?  
| Class #4 | Individual Meetings w/Professor Lombardi (Sign up w/T. Acosta)  
| Class #5 | Iran: How “Islamic” is the Iranian Constitutional System?  
| Class #6 | Pakistan: Has Islamization Helped or Hindered Democratization?  
|  | • Martin Lau “Pakistan” in Jan Otto, Shari’a Incorporated (Leiden Univ. Press 2010)  
|  | • Hefner, Chapter 6; M.Q. Masud “Pakistan: Shari’a and the Sate  
|  | • Court Cases: TBD  
| Class #7 | The Arab Spring: Challenges of Constitutional Design  
|  | • Readings TBD  
| Class #8 | Presentations of Final Research Projects |