Sustainable International Development Practicum  
Law H 515; 3/3 credits  
Winter and Spring Terms, 2015

Instructor  
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Course Description. The Sustainable International Development Practicum will provide students with clinical experience in law and development. The practicum will focus on using law as a tool for social change, poverty alleviation in lower income countries. Students will have the opportunity to work directly with partner non-governmental organizations, under the supervision of the instructor, to develop practical solutions to protect the rights of individuals and communities where development-related changes threaten to adversely impact their basic rights. Projects will focus on developing skills such as conducting research and collecting evidence to support the work of our partner organizations and presenting findings in writing and verbally. Students may also draft legal guides and toolkits for communities impacted by development projects, conduct interviews and/or focus groups of witnesses and experts, and present findings to project funders.

Students will work in teams, and are expected to devote at least nine hours in out-of-class time per week to the practicum, including at least one weekly team meeting. Teams will also meet outside of class as necessary, including for Skype conferences with NGO partners who are located in different time zones. During Spring Quarter, the student teams will present findings and recommendations to peers and our NGO partners.

Course Objectives  
• Gain experience working on real sustainable development and international human rights projects in partnership with strong non-profit/non-governmental organization partners  
• Gain experience communicating with and presenting findings to clients/NGO partners  
• Analyze and evaluate the current international legal framework and law-making mechanisms relevant to the projects at issue  
• Work in teams to achieve project objectives, including conducting legal and factual research, analyzing findings, producing written product and presenting findings orally  
• Gain experience scheduling team meetings, dividing work assignments, and synthesizing work product  
• Gain experience with peer-review of one another’s work within and across teams  
• Gain experience working across cultures and in different languages

Required Texts. There is no required text. The practicum materials are composed of a variety of international treaties; scholarly articles; newspaper articles; and the websites of development banks, the US State Department, and various non-governmental organizations, most of which will be available on the “Modules” or “Assignments” portions of CANVAS (requires UWNNetID to access). The course reading should serve as background information for further research related to the practicum projects.
**Grading.** Grading for the course will be on a credit/no credit basis. To receive credit, each student must complete all assignments, attend all class meetings and team meetings (or provide a written explanation of any inability to attend), and work diligently as part of his or her team on team projects, including presentations of findings in writing and verbally.

**Disability-related needs.** To request academic accommodations due to a disability please contact Disability Resources for Students Office (DRS), 448 Schmitz, 206-543-8924. If you have a letter from Disability Resources for Students, please present the letter to the instructor so that arrangements can be made for accommodation.
Week 1: Thursday, January 7, 2015: Introductions; Overview of Practicum, Projects and NGO Partners; Discussion of development

Assignment:
- Please complete all of the background readings below and prepare questions about the projects

Readings:

I. The Center for Gender and Resource Equity (formerly Landesa Center for Women’s Land Rights) and the Best Practices in Land Management Project

A. About The Center for Gender and Resource Equity
- Please review the website for Landesa’s Center for Women’s Land Rights: http://www.landesa.org/women-and-land/. Review the information found through the following links:
  - Staff: Renee Giovarelli, Elisa Scalise, Leslie Hannay, Amanda Richardson
  - Landwise: A Women & Land Library (Review “Learn More” and “Browse Practice Guides” – please skim one of the practice guides)
  - Programs and Projects (browse)
  - “Our Project in West Bengal India Helps Support Girls’ Land Rights”

B. Background for the Best Practices in Land Management Project

II. New Course and Bridging the Blue-Green Divide in Haiti

A. About New Course
- Please review New Course’s website: http://www.anewcourse.org/. Review the information found through the following links: “Why Women,” “Our Impact” (including “Our Model” and “Our Programs” (focus on “Root Solutions”), “About Us” (including Our Mission” and “Our Team”)

B. About Haiti, Bridging the Blue-Green Divide, and New Course’s Work in Haiti
- Background materials on Haiti
- Excerpts from Murdo J. MacLeod, “Haiti,” ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA, last updated 12/21/14, PDF - full article available at: http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/251961/Haiti (SKIM)
- Recent events in Haiti and commentary from the Haitian diaspora:
III. Global Rights, ADEV and the Inga 3 Dam Project

A. About International Rivers and Action pour les Droits, l'Environnement et la Vie (Action for Development, the Environment and Life) (ADEV)

- About International Rivers: http://www.internationalrivers.org/resources/about-international-rivers-3679 (read through sections titled “Mission,” “How We Work” and skim “Staff”; in tab titled “Our Work,” read “Banks & Dam Builders” and “Africa”)

B. About the Democratic Republic of Congo

- Background/very brief history of the Democratic Republic of Congo:
  - Videographic: A short, recent history of Congo, the Economist (2009) available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vv8IlEj0C4w

- Map of Africa: http://www.i-like2learn.com/i-like2learn/Continent%20Maps/Africa%20Political%20Large.gif
- Maps of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):

C. About the Grand Inga Dam Project

• “Grand Inga Dam, DR Congo” International Rivers, available at: http://www.internationalrivers.org/campaigns/grand-inga-dam-dr-congo

**Week 2: Thursday, January 15, 2015. Skype discussion with Rudo Sanyanga, Africa Director, International Rivers and Lien De Brokere, ABA Rule of Law Initiative, on the Inga 3 Project**

**All Teams:** Complete assigned reading for your team (will be posted to CANVAS and circulated via email)

**Team Inga 3:** By Wednesday, January 14, prepare questions for Rudo Sanyanga and Lien De Brouckere (preferably as a team); send questions to Prof. LL by email

**Week 3: Thursday, January 22, 2015. Discussion with Elisa Scalise, JD of the Center for Gender and Resource Equity**

**All Teams:**
- Complete assigned reading for your team (will be posted to CANVAS and circulated via email)
- Meet as a team
- Prepare a short bio for yourself and send to Prof. LL by the end of the day on Wednesday, Jan. 21

**Team Vanuatu:**
- By Wednesday, January 21, at 3 pm, individually and as a team prepare questions for Elisa Scalise; send questions as a team to Prof. LL by email
- For class on Thursday, January 22, prepare a 10-15 minute overview presentation on the history, culture, and relevant political background of Vanuatu to be delivered at the beginning of class.

**Team Inga 3:** Meet as a team with Prof. LL (this will count as your weekly team meeting)

**Week 4: Thursday, January 29, 2015. Discussion with Jamie Bechtel, JD, PhD, Founder and CEO of New Course**

**All Teams**
- Complete any assigned reading for your team (readings will be posted to CANVAS)
- Meet as a team
- Review edits to your bio
Team Haiti:
- **By Wednesday, January 28, at 3 pm**, individually and as a team prepare questions for Jamie Bechtel; send questions as a team to Prof. LL by email
- **For class on Thursday, January 29**, prepare a 10-15 minute overview presentation on the history, culture, and relevant political history of Haiti to be delivered at the beginning of class.
- **Meet as a team with Prof. LL (this will count as your weekly team meeting)**

Team Vanuatu: **Meet as a team with Prof. LL (this will count as your weekly team meeting)**

Additional team readings and/or assignments may be announced via CANVAS

**Week 5: Thursday, February 5, 2015 - Skills Building Session: Research.** Teams report on progress to date, including any research-related challenges. **Presentation by UW Law Research Librarian.**

**All Teams:**
- Meet as a team – prepare to report on progress to date and any research-related challenges

**Team Inga 3:**
- **For class on Thursday, February 5**, prepare a 15 minute overview presentation on the history, culture, and relevant political situation of the DRC to be delivered at the beginning of class.

Additional team readings and/or assignments may be announced via CANVAS

**Week 6: Thursday, February 12, 2015 - Skype Conversation with Josh Klemm, Policy Analyst, International Rivers on the World Bank safeguards standards relevant to Inga 3** (pending final confirmation)

**All Teams:**
- Meet as a team (as needed)

**Team Inga 3:**
- **By Wednesday, February 11, at 3 pm**, individually and as a team prepare questions for Josh Klemm; send questions as a team to Prof. LL by email

Additional team readings and/or assignments may be announced via CANVAS

**Week 7: Thursday, February 19, 2015 - Screening and discussion of “Fatal Assistance,” documentary directed by Haitian-born Raoul Peck**

Team readings and/or assignments may be announced via CANVAS
Week 8: Thursday, February 26, 2015 - Skills Building Exercise: Interviewing – Guest speaker(s) to be announced

Team readings and/or assignments may be announced via CANVAS

Week 9: Thursday, March 5, 2015 - Peer Presentations and Review: Teams report findings and progress to date to one another; feedback and questions

All Teams:
- By Monday, March 2, 2015 at 5 pm, circulate draft of Winter Quarter written product via email to Prof. JLL and the full class
- For class on March 5, review written work of other teams and prepare feedback and questions

Finals Period: March 12 – 21

March 21, 2015 – All teams – deadline to turn in Winter Quarter written product via email and catalyst