

**Comparative Law  
Law 8743. Spring 2008  
Professor Colin Picker**

**SYLLABUS**

**1. General Information**

Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:05 to 3:20, Room 2-300B

UMKC Law School Class **Attendance Policy** fully applicable.

Office Hours are Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:30 to 12:30 or by appointment, Room 2-307

My office number is 5928, my e-mail is [pickerc@umkc.edu](mailto:pickerc@umkc.edu)

There will be a mandatory Library & Westlaw comparative law resources training session during the early part of the semester in the library. This training session will stand in for a later cancelled class. Attendance will be taken.

Readings assignments will be handed out periodically.

**2. Materials**

Mary Ann Glendon, Paolo G. Carozza and Colin B. Picker, *COMPARATIVE LEGAL TRADITIONS: TEXTS, MATERIALS AND CASES ON WESTERN LAW*, 3rd Edition (American Casebook Series) (Thomson West Publishing 2007)

**3. Course Evaluation - 2 Credit Hours**

70% based on a 4000 word (maximum - not including footnotes) research paper - "Primer on a Foreign Legal Issue" (discussed below).

Two in-class quizzes – one half way through the semester, one in the last week of the semester, each worth 15% of the total grade.

I reserve the right to raise/lower one or more letter grades (e.g. B to B+, B to B- or C+) for good/bad participation. Typically students that keep on top of the reading will not experience a grade reduction.

**4. Draft Course Description**

Comparative Law as a Methodology  
History, Culture and Distribution of the Civil Law (Continental Law)  
Legal Structures & Actors in Civil Law Nations  
Legal Actors in the Civil Law Tradition

Procedure in Civil Law Systems  
Sources of Law and Judicial Process in Civil Law Systems  
European Law & Institutions (EU, EC, EEC)  
History, Culture and Distribution of the English Common Law  
Legal Structures & Actors in England  
Legal Actors in England  
Sources of Law in England  
Mixed Jurisdictions

### **5. Paper “Primer on A Foreign Legal Issue”**

Students will be required to choose a substantive area of the law from a list provided in class (e.g., torts, contracts, federalism, etc.) and to prepare a comparative paper on how that substantive area is dealt with in a country/countries/region in comparison with the United States/Missouri.

The paper should be aimed at providing a member of the local bar with background information on the issue. The specific fields from which students may choose their subjects will be announced later in the semester.

One draft may be submitted for review (electronically and by hard copy) during the day of Monday March 31<sup>st</sup> and at no other time.

During the semester students will be asked to submit a description of the subject to be covered, a thesis, a list of sources, and an outline. Failure to submit these requirements at the scheduled time may result in reduction of the class grade.

Final papers are due electronically Monday April 28<sup>th</sup> by noon, and in paper-form Tuesday April 29<sup>th</sup> by noon.

5 minute presentations on student’s research, not graded, will take place the final week of class with the expectation that final papers will reflect any comments at that time.