LEGAL GLOBALIZATION AND COMPARATIVE LAW: CUBA
LAW 602 or BA 588A(CRN: 29408)
Spring 2014
Professors Buys and Altobello
Thursdays 4-5:30 pm
Southern Illinois University School of Law Room 206

Course Description:

This course will focus on the history of U.S.-Cuban relations, the U.S. economic embargo on Cuba, and its effect on business opportunities in Cuba. Students will spend the first several weeks of the semester learning about the history of Cuba and U.S.-Cuban relations, Cuba's government and legal system, its culture, economy and business environment, and the impact of the U.S. embargo on doing business in Cuba.

The class will meet once a week on Thursday afternoons from 4-5:30 pm for approximately 8 weeks from the beginning of the semester in January through spring break in March. Students will then spend spring break, March 8-15, 2014, in Cuba.

The schedule of activities in Cuba will not be finalized until shortly before departure. However, it is anticipated that the itinerary will include meetings with Cuban government officials, students and faculty from the University of Havana, and lawyers, judges and businesspersons in Cuba. Students will also spend part of their time engaging in certain cultural activities, such as walking tours through historic old Havana and a visit to the Fort la Cabaña.

Students will be expected to reflect upon and write about their experiences. Upon their return, students will work on a project related to the class and will be expected to give an oral presentation about what they have learned.

Course Fee: $3,599 (in addition to spring semester tuition)

The course fee includes transportation to/from St. Louis airport, roundtrip airfare from St. Louis to Havana, Cuba, hotel accommodations in Cuba, local transportation in Cuba, all tours, several meals, and visa fees. The fee does not include the cost of obtaining a passport, personal expenses or books and course materials. All of these expenses may be covered by financial aid.

Contact Info:

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Required Readings:

Most of the readings for the course will be posted on the course webpage on Desire to Learn or D2L. For the first day of class, students are expected to read one book about Cuba from the preapproved list.
that has been posted on the course webpage and distributed by email. During the first two class sessions, students will be expected to give short oral presentations regarding the book they have chosen to read.

**Attendance Policy:**

You are expected to attend class and to be on time. Because this class only meets once per week and will not meet regularly after spring break, you are not permitted any unexcused absences. If you have extraordinary circumstances that cause you to miss a class, you must contact one of the professors by email as soon as reasonably possible with an explanation of the extraordinary circumstances. If you miss class or fail to attend other class-related activities without permission, you will receive an unsatisfactory grade for the course and you may not be permitted to travel with the group. (You will not receive a refund, however, because travel arrangements will already have been made and paid for.)

**Study Travel Component**

This course includes a week-long trip to Cuba. The dates of travel are as follows:

- Leave from Carbondale, IL Saturday, March 8
- Arrive Havana, Cuba Saturday, March 8
- Leave Havana, Cuba for Cienfuegos, Cuba on Tuesday or Wednesday, March 11 or 12
- Return to Havana, Cuba on Thursday or Friday, March 13 or 14
- Return to Carbondale, IL on Saturday, March 15

You will be staying in hotel rooms in Cuba with two persons of the same gender to a room.

**Evaluation:**

If you are enrolled in BA 588A, the class is graded on a letter scale. If you are enrolled in LAW 602, the course is graded on an S/U basis. Grading will be as follows:

- 25%: Attendance at and participation in pre-departure class meetings
- 10%: Oral discussion of book review
- 25%: Professionalism on trip
- 15%: Blog entry/Journal
- 25%: Final project

**Conduct Expectations**

You are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner at all times. Due to the U.S. embargo on Cuba, U.S. citizens and residents may only travel to Cuba under a valid license issued by the U.S. government. SIU holds an academic license that permits SIU students and faculty to travel to Cuba for academic purposes. U.S. citizens and residents are required to have visas to travel to Cuba. Professors Buys and Altobello will arrange for visas on behalf of each participant in the course and will provide each participant with a letter from SIU authorizing the travel under SIU’s license, which must be carried with the participant to Cuba. Participants in the course may only engage in activities authorized by the license while in Cuba. Participants must follow the pre-approved itinerary. Personal travel or activities outside the approved itinerary are not allowed.
Class Recordings

Class is not to be recorded, unless a special exception is made. Please contact Professor Buys if you require a particular class to be recorded.

Students with Disabilities

The law school’s policies and procedures regarding students with disabilities may be found on line at http://www.law.siu.edu/. Students with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations with respect to examinations should contact the Registrar’s office.

Emergency Procedures

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT’s website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety’s website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Jan. 16: Introductions, Logistics and Book Reviews

Jan. 23: History of Cuba Pre-Revolution
         Book Reviews

Jan. 30: The Cuban Revolution
         Guest Speaker: Dr. Melinda Yeomans, “Latin American Revolutionaries”

Feb. 6: Cuban Government, Elections and Politics
         Guest Speaker: Dr. John Jackson

Feb. 13: U.S. Cuban Relations and the Cuban Embargo

Feb. 20: Business and Agriculture in Cuba

Feb. 27: Human Rights in Cuba
         Guest Speaker: Dr. Jon Davey, Cuban Culture

Mar. 6: TBD

Trip to Cuba: March 8-15, 2014

Future class schedule and assignments TBA