

## **J-TERM COURSE TITLES AND DESCRIPTIONS**

**Professor Tayyab Mahmud, Professor of Law and Director, Center for Global Justice, Seattle University School of Law (Law 546C)**

**Course Title:** Seminar in Comparative Constitutional Law: Coup d'Etat & Common Law

**Course Description:** Around the world, a change of government often issues from the threat or use of force against the incumbent regime. A coup d'etat raises many complex legal questions that courts in common law jurisdictions are often called upon to resolve. Does the constitutional order survive a coup d'etat? What is the source of validity, legitimacy, and legislative power of an extra-constitutional regime? What legal theories and doctrines can be used by the courts to examine the validity of usurpation of state power? What options are available to a court when faced with a coup d'etat? This seminar will examine these questions in light of the pronouncements of courts in common law jurisdictions from around the world.

**Professor Charles Ogletree, Jesse Climenko Professor of Law, and Founding and Executive Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, Harvard Law School (Law 546G)**

**Course Title:** President Obama's Impact on America and Beyond: How Will He Help Shape the Legal Landscape?"

**Course Description:** This course will examine President Barack Obama's life from his childhood through his election as the first African American President of the United States, and how his personal story will help define his legal legacy as President. We will discuss the early influences on his life and the successes and challenges that shaped him as a person. The course will be broken down into five periods of his life. The first will examine his relationship with his family, classmates, and his early education in Hawaii. The second will address the formative years he spent in college and law school, which shaped his philosophy about the law. Third, we will examine his foray into national politics and his successes and failures as a state senator. Fourth, we'll address his national political agenda, which began with speaking at the July 2004 Democratic National Convention and his election as the third African American Senator. And finally we'll discuss his run for the presidency and his service as the first African American president.

**Prof. Harry N. Scheiber, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, Stefan A. Riesenfeld Professor of Law and History (Law 546J)**

**Course Title:** Emergency Powers and Civil Liberties in American Constitutional History

**Course Description:** The format of this course will be combined lecture/discussion sessions on a selected set of episodes in American history when government suspended normal constitutional guarantees and imposed deprivations of civil liberties and procedural rights. Cases and materials will be used to illustrate specific crises, together

with the challenges raised against such measures as suspension of the privilege of habeas corpus; curbs on freedom of speech and press; arbitrary internment of Japanese-Americans; and (in the case of Hawaii during World War II) the imposition of martial law, with its takeover of administration of justice by Army courts. Recent major cases associated with “war on terror” policies will also be discussed. A short paper will be required for the course.

**Professor Frank Upham, Wilf Family Professor of Property Law, New York University School of Law (Law 546H)**

**Course Title:** Property Rights in Economic and Social Development

**Course Description:** The goal of the seminar is to examine what happens to property rights and entitlements when societies undergo rapid change for political, economic, or technological reasons. In doing so it challenges the conventional wisdom that clear property rights are necessary to economic growth and raises the possibility that, on the contrary, property rights must be destroyed to enable rapid growth. We will look at several different instances of social change, drawing on legal history, comparative law, and law and development. Special attention will be paid to the role of formal legal institutions in defending, transforming, or destroying existing economic interests and social arrangements.

**Professor Gordon Walker, Chair of Commercial Law, La Trobe University, Australia (Law 546D)**

**Course Title:** Public Listing Down Under - Australia and New Zealand Company and Securities Law

**Course Description:** This class focuses on the company and securities laws of Australia and New Zealand. Each of these jurisdictions copied United Kingdom company law and later modified that law. There will be a brief discussion of the company laws of the former British enclaves in the Southern Hemisphere, highlighting the similarities between these jurisdictions which all share the same legal heritage: Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong. While this class has academic and theoretical interest, the main focus of the class is on the types of transaction planning issues that confront a practicing lawyer. The take home exam puts these issues squarely before the student.