COURSE NUMBER & COURSE NAME:  743 Comparative Law

PROFESSOR:  Picker

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE(S):  None

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITE(S):  None

METHOD OF GRADING AND APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:  100% Paper, but with the possibility of occasional in-class quizzes to ensure the reading assignments are completed. Additionally, student grades may be raised or reduced by one letter grade for exceptionally good or poor class performance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:  This course will focus principally on the study of the relationships between two different legal traditions - the Civil Law and the Common Law. Together these legal traditions provide the foundation of most of the world’s national legal systems. As an initial matter, the class will examine the essential characteristics of the Civil Law and the Common Law, focusing on each tradition’s history, legal structures, legal actors, procedures, and sources of law. As part of the general examination of these traditions, the class will examine particular systems within those traditions, including the English, Scottish, French, and German legal systems. The class may, time permitting, also consider non-Western Legal traditions such as Islamic and Hindu Law.

COURSE BOOK(S):  Glendon, Gordon & Osakwe, Comparative Legal Traditions (West 1994) and other selected readings bringing the book up to date.

COURSE MATERIALS:  Text book and photocopied materials

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:  This course will provide the student with a greater and global understanding of the American legal system as well as an understanding of the fundamentals of the Civil Law legal systems in the world (most other legal systems are Civil Law based). In addition, this course will provide the student with important tools when confronting and trying to understand foreign legal systems and their lawyers, especially during transnational transactions.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MISSOURI BAR EXAM PREPARATION:  Greater understanding of the Common Law.