

UMKC School of Law ELECTIVE COURSE INFORMATION Spring 2010

COURSE NUMBER & COURSE NAME: Global Legal Systems 8743

PROFESSOR: Picker

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE(S): None

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITE(S): None

METHOD OF GRADING AND APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE: While not settled firmly, it is likely to be an 80% Paper, with two in-class quizzes of 10% each. 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): 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)

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 through consideration of how other legal systems work. The course will also provide the student with important tools when confronting and trying to understand foreign legal systems and their lawyers, especially during transnational transactions and litigations.

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