

Law W208.9, Fundamentals of U.S. Law with Professor Fernholz for 3 units

Start date: January 7, 2021

End date: March 4, 2021

Exam take-home window: March 5th- March 11th

Course description: Fundamentals of U.S. Law introduces foreign law students to the American legal system, common-law method of case analysis, and American forms of governance. Initial classes focus primarily on (1) the structure of the American court system and sources of law and (2) case analysis through the study of a series of judicial decisions related to same-sex marriage in the United States. Students will learn how to read cases, find and synthesize holdings, and predict outcomes based on common law development. Classes during the rest of the semester will focus on the principal Constitutional doctrines that underpin the American legal and political system, primarily the doctrines of federalism and separation of powers. Throughout the course, students will practice skills that will help them succeed in law school, on the bar examination, and in practice.