



## SEMINAR IN TRANSNATIONAL LAW:

### *National Security Law*

**Professor Steven R. Swanson**

**Fall 2013**

**The Course:** The purpose of this course is twofold: learn national security law and hone your legal research, writing and presentation skills. The first portion of the course will be taught using traditional cases and discussion format. The assignments for the first part of the course will be found on TWEN. After that the fun begins! You and your colleagues will be presenting your papers to the class, covering in more detail aspects of national security law in which you have an interest.

**Paper Requirements:** The paper should be a thoughtful, scholarly work totaling 30-40 pages in length (certainly not less than 30 or more than 50 pages long). It should look like an article that one would normally find in a law review, with appropriately formatted text and footnotes. Each student will have an assigned date on which s/he will be giving a presentation. We will do this on the first day of classes by drawing priorities from a hat. The paper's first draft (complete with copies for all class members) must be submitted the Monday (by 10:00 am) prior to the presentation date. Drafts (typed in near-final condition) must be submitted to the class and to me through TWEN. The completed final draft is due by the end of classes, except that students giving their presentations in the last two weeks of class will be allowed some additional time.

**Critiques of Student Papers:** Students will be responsible for writing one-page critiques of the first drafts submitted by their fellow students. These critiques are due by the beginning of the class in which the presentation is being given. These critiques will be submitted through TWEN.

**Presentation Requirements:** Each student will be allotted, and must fill, 40 minutes for the presentation. How that time is utilized will be left to the student's discretion; the presentation should not, however, be a mere regurgitation of the paper contents. The goal is to draw the class members into a spirited discussion of the particular topic.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to comply with the Law School's attendance policy. Missing more than two classes puts the student at risk.

**Laptop Policy:** You are allowed to use a laptop in class for course-related purposes.

**Grading:** Each student's grade will be based on three parts. The final paper will count 80%, and the first draft and oral presentation will be 20%. The final component will be class participation, which can increase or decrease a student's standing by 1/2 grade. The only other contributing factor would be the unexcused late submission of the first draft. Since the timely submission of that draft is key to the seminar's continuity throughout the semester, there will be a 1/2 grade reduction for missing the Monday, 10:00 am deadline, and further penalties will be assessed for any additional delay. This penalty will be enforced in a Draconian fashion. No excuses!

Assignments (may change, depending on number of students in class):

Class One: Read Class One Materials, *National Security Powers and the Constitution* and skim  
[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss\\_viewer/national\\_security\\_strategy.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/national_security_strategy.pdf)

Class Two: Read Class Two Materials, *Balancing Presidential and Congressional Powers*

Class Three: Read Class Three Materials

Class Four: Read Class Four Materials

Class Five: Research Break

Classes Six-Twelve: Class Presentations

**Paper Topics:** Your paper should address some area of National Security Law. It is important to remember that this is a law school course, and that the paper must discuss issues of legal concern, rather than just make a foreign policy argument.