Course title	Vis Moot Workshop				
Responsible person to enter grades	NISHIOKA Kazuaki			開講区分	単位数
				2nd semester	2.0
Numbering Code		Day・Period, etc.	Tues2(対面)	Timetable Slot Code	3J382

Lesson topic

This workshop aims to prepare students for participation in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Vis Moot), scheduled for spring 2027 (at the end of the 2026 academic year). Designed for aspiring international business lawyers, the course offers a unique opportunity to develop crucial skills in legal interpretation, persuasive English argumentation, and teamwork through a hands-on mock arbitration project.

The Vis Moot challenges students to tackle international commercial disputes through simulated arbitration proceedings. Teams represent parties as counsel in disputes related to international sale of goods, honing their skills in a competitive environment. Our workshop kicks off once the official Problem (a 50-page document in English) is released in early October. Embracing a student-led seminar format, this course demands active participation both in and outside the classroom. Participants will dive deep into issue analysis, conduct thorough research, and draft compelling written arguments.

*This course is planned to be conducted using a combination of face-to-face and real-time remote classes, but the format may be changed based on participants' preferences.

Lesson target

Upon completing the course, students should be able to (1) understand how arbitration proceeding proceeds, (2) understand and interpret the rules and laws concerning arbitration, (3) write documents properly and argue effectively in the proceedings, and (4) work with other team members efficiently and help each other effectively.

Syllabus and plan

Week 1: Introduction and Overview of Vis Moot
Week 2: Analysing the Vis Moot 2026 Problem
Week 3: Legal research and brain storming discussion (1)
Week 4: Legal research and brain storming discussion (2)
Week 5: Preparatory work for the Claimant's memorandum (1)
Week 6: Preparatory work for the Claimant's memorandum (2)
Week 7: Drafting the Claimant's memorandum (1)
Week 8: Drafting the Claimant's memorandum (2)
Week 9: Preparatory work for the Respondent's memorandum (1)
Week 10: Preparatory work for the Respondent's memorandum (2)
Week 11: Drafting the Respondent's memorandum (1)
Week 12: Drafting the Respondent's memorandum (2)
Week 13: Preparation for oral arguments (1)
Week 14: Preparation for oral arguments (2)
Week 15: Practice session of oral arguments

* After and/or in the course of this workshop, students will participate in moots in Japan and elsewhere (for example, Hong Kong and Vienna).
** The course strucuture may be chagned, depening on the pre-moots in which the team will participate.

Evaluation method

- Contribution to the teamwork for written submissions (50%)
- Participation into the research and discussion (50%)

Evaluation baseline

Students should be able to:
- explain how arbitration proceeding proceeds.
- interpret the rules and laws concerning arbitration
- write documents properly and argue effectively in the proceedings
- cooperate with other team members efficiently

Notice (include info. on related class)

- Prior to taking this course, students are expected to check the schedule and keep enough time for participating in this project.
- Foreign language literature (especially in English) will be the main source material.
- There is a possibility that real-time classes using Zoom will become the standard format.
- As mentioned in the course description, active participation outside of class is expected.
- In the final stages of preparation for the international competition, there may be classes involving universities and practitioners from both within Japan and abroad.

Review and preparation

Preparation: Finish the assigned work in the previous class
Review: Recollect the discussion and consider how to proceed for the next session

Kobe University requires 45 hours of study from students to award one credit, including both in-class instructions as well as study outside classes. Students are required to prepare for each class and complete the review after each class, depending on the respective class goals.

Office hour・Contact information

Make an appointment via email.
Contact details will be provided during the course.

Message for student

Improvemenets in Teaching

Text

To be provided during the course.

Reference Material

To be provided during the course.

Classroom Language

English
Japanese or other languages may be used if needed.

Keywords

Vis Moot, International Commercial Arbitration, UNCITRAL, CISG, UNIDROIT, ICC, IBA, Choice of Law, New York