
INTL 4210 – INTRO TO INTERNATIONAL LAW

Park 116 MWF 9:05-9:55
Fall 2016 - Syllabus

Instructor
William Dory

Contact
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Office Location & Hours
M & W 11:15-12:00 and by
appointment only

Course Description & Materials

The main goal of this course is to provide students with a general understanding of the basic theories and issues in the field of International Law. After a short introduction that covers the essential foundations of international law, we will explore seven topics of particular importance in international law: territoriality, the peaceful interactions of states, use of force, international criminal activity, human rights, the environment, and the global economy. This is primarily an international relations course and not a law school course, however, there will be some exposure to important cases in international law that demonstrate the principles under discussion, such as: why do states follow international law? What is international law? Does it have any force in an anarchic system?

Required Texts:

Murphy, Sean D. *Principles of International Law 2nd Edition*, West. St. Paul, 2006.

Primary readings will be from this book. Any additional readings can be found through the library or on eLC. It is not required that you get a new copy, but you need access to a copy of the textbook. New and used copies are available at the bookstore, and there is one copy available in the library.

News:

It is highly recommended that you keep up with current events. Good resources include: *BBC News*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Economist*, *Time*, *CNN*, *Reuters*, and others.

Course Policies

Grades:

Attendance and participation 15%
Six Reading Quizzes 15%
Case Briefing 10%
Case Presentation 10%
Midterm Exam 25%
Final Exam 25%

Grades are not rounded and there is not extra credit.

Grade Scale:

A = 93 – 100
A- = 90 – 92
B+ = 87 – 89
B = 83 – 86
B- = 80 – 82
C+ = 77 – 79
C = 73 – 76
C- = 70 – 72
D = 60 – 69
F = 0 – 59

Attendance & Participation:

1. Excused Absences: I am aware that events beyond our control conspire to keep us from meeting our normal obligations; in these cases, I grant excused absences. An excused absence is one where you have an officially documented college-sanctioned event, a documented medical excuse, or proof of a deceased direct relative. I will accept documentation to receive an excused absence for up to a week after the missed day. Contacting me ahead of time is, of course, preferable.
2. Unexcused Absences: You may also use up to THREE (3) unexcused absences without penalty. You do not need to contact me if you are using one of these. I care for you all, but flooding my inbox with unimportant emails about you oversleeping or how the-struggle-is-real just annoy me, and may incur my wrath upon your poor classmates should this happen too often. Beyond these three, any unexcused absences will result in lowering your grade by two (2) percent per unexcused absence.
3. Participation: I will regularly take attendance in class. I will also take note of both the quantity and the quality of your contributions to class discussions. Finally, I should note that points for attendance and participation are not simply given out; they are earned. Grades in my classes are often raised by attendance and participation. However, others have found their grade lowered when they paid little attention to attendance and participation. As such, it is in your best interest to attend class and participate in discussion where appropriate.

Readings:

Those readings not in the assigned books, are available electronically via ELC, the UGA library electronic database, and/or Google Scholar.

I am here for guidance and to share knowledge with you, which I will do extensively most days in class. However, the best way for you to learn in this course is to engage with the material and to debate and discuss it at length with your peers in class. Thus, excellence in participation means more than just talking a lot in class; rather, it requires that your participation be high in both quality *and* quantity. In order to pull this off, you should do your best to be a *critical reader*. Critical readers are (Schumm, J.S., and Post, S. A. 1997. *Executive Learning*, 282; Richards 2006).

- Willing to spend time reflecting on the ideas present in their reading assignments.
- Able to evaluate and solve problems while reading rather than merely compile a set of facts to be memorized.
- Eager to express their thoughts on a topic, and seekers of alternative views.
- Open to new ideas that may or may not necessarily agree with their previous thought on a topic.
- Able to base their judgements on ideas and evidence, and take a critical stance.
- Able to recognize errors in thought and persuasion as well as to recognize good arguments.
- Able to ask penetrating and thought-provoking questions to evaluate ideas.
- In touch with their personal thoughts and ideas about a topic.
- Willing to reassess their views when new or discordant evidence is introduced and evaluated.
- Able to see connections between topics and use knowledge from other disciplines to enhance their reading and learning experiences.

Reading Quizzes (15 percent)

There will be 6 unannounced readings quizzes over the course of the term. The quizzes will be composed of multiple choice and short answers that cover the assigned readings for each day. Reading quizzes will NOT be made-up if you are absent. However, only five of those six quizzes will be used to calculate your grade. In other words, I will drop your lowest score at the end of the semester.

Exams

There are 2 exams in this class – 1 midterm (25 percent) and 1 final exam (25 percent). Exam material will be drawn from the following: lecture notes, assigned required readings, class discussion, movies shown in class, and any other supplementary materials. **All exams are cumulative.** One piece of advice: Do the required readings, attend class, and participate and you will be very well prepared for both exams.

Case Briefs (10 percent)

During the semester you will be asked to write a brief of an important court case in international law. A case will be assigned to you at random and you will be given a demonstration of how to write a brief. Briefs are to be completed on an individual basis and turned in before the class presentation.

Case Presentation (10 percent)

In a small group, you will be required to present a case to the rest of the class. Presentations should focus on the importance of the case and the details that lead to the final decision.

Grade Appeals:

If you believe your exams or assignments have been graded unfairly, you can appeal your grade in written form. You must hand in your appeal on the day after the assignment or exam was returned. Comparisons to other students' graded assignments will not be accepted for a complaint. Hand in the original copy of the graded assignment/exam together with the written appeal. I will reevaluate your grade in light of the argument that you made. However, the new grade may be the same, higher, or lower than the original grade. It will be final.

Disabilities:

Students with disabilities of any kind are strongly encouraged to tell me at the beginning of the semester, so appropriate accommodations can be made. Students with disabilities that have been certified by the UGA Disabilities Services Office will be accommodated according to university policy. Contact Disabilities Services for more information.

Cheating & Plagiarism:

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. See the Academic Honesty Policy for details on what is expected of you (<http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>)

Classroom Behavior:

Classroom Behavior: Students should behave professionally throughout the course. Due to the large size of the class, disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Turn off your cell phone while in class (some exceptions may apply - e.g. you a transplant surgeon anxiously awaiting the arrival of a donor heart). Laptops may be used to take notes in class, but not in a way that is disruptive to other students. Texting is

never appropriate in class, unless it is to let your friends know that a case concerning the Third Amendment has never been litigated before the Supreme Court, or some similar tidbit of mesmerizing political trivia.

Instructor Availability:

My office hours are by appointment. You may discuss when you would like to meet with me immediately following class or send an email to dorywa@uga.edu. If you set up a meeting with me, do not miss the meeting.

This course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Week One: Introduction to International Law 8-12

F – Introduction to Course Syllabus

Week Two: Overview 8-19

M – Overview of International Law Murphy, Chapter 1: 3-19

W – International Law in IR Murphy, Chapter 1: 19-26

F – Case Briefings and Expectations

Week Three: Legal Personalities: The State 8-26

M – The State Murphy, Chapter 2: 33-37

W – Recognition of Governments Murphy, Chapter 2: 37-47

F – Presentation Guidelines and Expectations

Week Four: Legal Personalities: Beyond the State 9-2

M – International Organizations Murphy, Chapter 2: 47-62

W – NGOs and Individuals Murphy, Chapter 2: 62-77

F – Treaties Murphy, Chapter 3: 77-92

Week Five: Sources of International Law 9-9

M – No Class Labor Day

W – Customs Murphy, Chapter 3: 92-103

F – Treaties, Customs, and the US Murphy, Chapter 7: Skim

Week Six: Other Sources 9-16

M – General Principles Murphy, Chapter 3: 101-104

W – Secondary Sources Murphy, Chapter 3: 104-111

F – “Soft Law” Murphy, Chapter 3: 111-123

Week Seven: Jurisdiction 9-23

M – National Jurisdiction Murphy, Chapter 8: Skim

W – Immunities Murphy, Chapter 9: Skim

F – Universal Jurisdiction
Kissinger, 2001 “The pitfalls of universal jurisdiction,” *Foreign Affairs*
Roth, 2001 “The Case for Universal Jurisdiction,”
Foreign Affairs

Week Eight: Midterm 9-30

M – Midterm Review

W – Midterm

F – State vs. State Territorial Claims Murphy, Chapter 2: reread 45-47

Week Nine: Questions of Territory 10-7

M – Nations Without States Keating, 2008 “How to Start Your Own Country in Four Easy Steps,” *Foreign Affairs*

W – The Global and Galactic Commons Murphy, Chapter 11: Skim

F – South China Sea Readings to be announced

Week Ten: Peaceful Interactions of States 10-14

M – States’ Rights and Obligations Murphy, Chapter 6: 201-219

W – Dispute Resolution Mechanisms Murphy, Chapter 4: 126-138

F – Dispute Resolution Mechanisms Murphy, Chapter 4: 138-167

Week Eleven: Use of Force 10-21

M – Jus Ad Bellum Murphy, Chapter 14: 491-515

W – Jus In Bello Murphy, Chapter 14: 515-529

F – Weapons Proliferation Murphy, Chapter 14: 529-538

Week Twelve: International Criminal Activity 10-28

M – Transnational Cooperation Murphy, Chapter 13: 453-465

W – International Crimes Murphy, Chapter 13: 465-472

F – No Class Fall Break

Week Thirteen: Human Rights 11-4

M – International Criminal Courts Murphy, Chapter 13: 472-489

W – UN Declaration of Human Rights Murphy, Chapter 10: 333-362

F – ICCPR and ICESCR Murphy, Chapter 10: 362-369

Week Fourteen: International Environmental Law 11-11

M – Regional Human Rights Murphy, Chapter 10: 369-381

W – Ozone Depletion Murphy, Chapter 12: 415-436

F – Greenhouse Gasses Murphy, Chapter 12: 436-444

Week Fifteen: TBA 11-18

M – Biodiversity Murphy, Chapter 12: 444-450

W – Class Choice

F – Class Choice

Week Sixteen: Thanksgiving Break 11-25

Week Seventeen: Presentations

M – Presentations

W – Presentations

F – Review

Week Eighteen: Final Week

M – Review

Final Exam

Wednesday, December 7th 8 to 11 a.m.