

INTL 4210: International Law

University of Georgia, Department of International Affairs

Course Instructor Information:

Dr. Erin Little

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202 Candler Hall, Office hours Mon. from 3-5pm
or by Zoom appointment

Course Meeting Information:

Fall 2022

Baldwin Hall 101D

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

What is international law? Is it really law? Do treaties, customs, general principles, international court rulings, the declarations and resolutions of international organizations, scholarly writing, and international norms really matter to rational, self-interested states and individuals in the absence of an overarching governing authority? Can international law limit state jurisdiction? Why do states comply with international law?

- The first part of this course will explore the foundations of international law. By providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the theories, history, sources, actors, and processes of creating international law, they will be able to begin to answer these questions above.
- The second part of the course will apply these foundations to key issue areas (e.g., humanitarian and human rights regimes).

In doing so, students will begin to apply legal precedent in international law to significant international events to construct, debate, and interpret original legal arguments. As international law is also offered in many law schools, it should be noted that this course will focus exclusively on public international law and will be presented from an international political, more than a legal, perspective.

EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND QUIZZES

You will have a two quizzes per module beginning with Module 2. The first will review the readings for that module (worth 10% of your final grade). The second will ask you to begin applying the material from the readings towards legal arguments for the applicant and respondent in a brief 3-5

sentence short answer question (worth 10% of your final grade). Due dates will alternate as outlined in the Course Schedule, with either a Reading Quiz or a Legal Argument Quiz due each Wednesday by 11:59pm. All quizzes can be found on eLC.

There will be no exams in the course. Instead, we will have a moot court week-long round robin halfway through the semester in lieu of a midterm, and a crisis simulation activity the final week instead of an exam. You will be assigned roles and positions for each two weeks prior to the respective activity, and we will discuss the outline and requirements for each as we get closer. The moot court activity will be worth 20% of your grade, and the crisis simulation will be worth 20%.

ASSIGNMENTS

Beginning with Module 2, students will submit draft legal arguments from *both* the Applicant's and Respondent's perspectives, collectively known as Memorials. Students will use these Memorials as a chance to evaluate inconsistencies within the law, apply multiple sources of laws to the facts of a case, identify which facts of a case are most relevant (and which are not), and formulate two legal arguments from opposing perspectives. A template and rubric for all Memorials will be available on eLC. All Memorials will be due on Wednesdays by 11:59pm through eLC, as outlined in the Course Schedule.

IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION

A whopping 25% of your grade will constitute in-class participation. We will have activities once a week, usually on Friday, as well as ongoing discussions throughout the semester. In order to get full credit, you must attend class, demonstrate some degree of participation in activities, and engage in *respectful, mindful dialogue* throughout the semester. Participating in class by asking questions, making thoughtful comments, and adding new information is important for everyone's continuing education. Discussions are intended for the mutual benefit of all students; disrespectfulness will not be tolerated. You may have up to 3 unexcused absences without harming your grade.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. Absences will only be excused for the following, discussed with me in advance: observance of a religious practice, documented (by a doctor or health clinic/hospital) sickness, or death of a relative or close friend. More than three cumulative absences without an above listed excuse will affect students' attendance and participation grades. Three unexcused absences are permitted without penalty. However, the fast-paced nature of this course and the use of supplemental materials in class, which will also appear on exams, will make it more difficult for students to do well in this course without being present.

GRADING POLICY

The breakdown of your grades and the scoring rubric for this course are below:

10% - Reading Quizzes

10% - Legal Argument Quizzes

15% - Memorials

20% - Moot Court Activity

20% - Crisis Simulation Activity

25% - In-class participation

94 to 100 – A

80 to 83 – B-

67 to 69 – D+

90 to 93 – A-

77 to 79 – C+

64 to 67 – D

87 to 89 – B+

74 to 77 – C

60 to 63 – D-

84 to 87 – B

70 to 73 – C-

59 and below – F

OUTLINE OF TOPICS

Module 1 – Defining our terms

Week 1 (Aug. 17, 19): Introduction to course requirements and AROC

- No reading this week
- In-class activity on Friday

Module 2 – Treaties and Criteria for Statehood

Week 2 (Aug. 22, 24, 26): How treaties define statehood and state duties

Week 3 (Aug. 29, 31 Sept. 2): Drafting legal arguments and memorials

- Reading quiz due Wednesday at 11:59pm

Week 4 (Sept. 5, 7, 9): Case study – the Republic of Kiribati

- Legal arguments quiz due Wednesday at 11:59pm
- Sept. 5: LABOR DAY - NO CLASS

Module 3 – International Customs

Week 5 (Sept. 12, 14, 16): Concepts in Int'l Law and the Relevant facts of the case

- Reading quiz due Wednesday at 11:59pm

- Moot court assignments and details will be provided this week

Week 6 (Sept. 19, 21, 23): Case study – TBD

- Legal arguments quiz due Wednesday at 11:59pm
- Moot court preparation on Friday

Module 4 – Subsidiary sources

Week 7 (Sept. 26, 28, 30): Subsidiary sources and the Corfu Channel incident

- Reading quiz due Wednesday at 11:59pm
- Moot court preparation on Friday

Week 8 (Oct. 3, 5, 7): *Moot Court Activity*

- Legal arguments quiz due Wednesday at 11:59pm

Module 5 – Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (DRMs)

Week 9 (Oct. 10, 12, 14): Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

- Reading quiz due Wednesday at 11:59pm

Week 10 (Oct. 17, 19, 21): Case study – the South China Sea

- Legal arguments quiz due Wednesday at 11:59pm

Module 6 – International Humanitarian Law/ The Law of War

Week 11 (Oct. 24, 26, 28): Geneva Conventions and Protocols

- Reading quiz due Wednesday at 11:59pm
- Oct. 28: MID-SEMESTER STUDY BREAK - NO CLASS

Week 12 (Oct. 31, Nov. 2, 4): Case study – Armenia and Azerbaijan

- Legal arguments quiz due Wednesday at 11:59pm

Module 7 – Human Rights Law

Week 13 (Nov. 7, 9, 11): Int'l Human Rights Law and the rights of refugees

- Reading quiz due Wednesday at 11:59pm

Week 14 (Nov. 14, 16, 18): Case Study – Rohingya crisis in Myanmar

Module 8 – Looking forward

Week 15 (Nov. 21): Open Forum - “Is International Law effective? Is it necessary? What is missing or needs to change?”

- Nov. 22-25: THANKSGIVING BREAK - NO CLASS

Week 16 (Nov. 28, 30, Dec. 2): *Crisis Simulation activity*

Week 17 (Dec. 5): Simulation follow-up and discussion

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

UGA Student Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found the website of Office of Instruction. We expect that the Student Honor Code will guide your efforts in this course. A lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy does not explain a violation. Please direct any questions to the instructor.

COURSE POLICIES

The following is taken verbatim from the University Council: "The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary."

The following is taken verbatim from LINK: "In the absence of written authorization from the UGA Disability Resource Center, students may not make a visual or audio recording of any aspect of this course. Students who have a recording accommodation agree in writing that they:

- Will use the records only for personal academic use during the specific course.
- Understand that faculty members have copyright interest in their class lectures and that they agree not to infringe on this right in any way.
- Understand that the faculty member and students in the class have privacy rights and agree not to violate those rights by using recordings for any reason other than their own personal study.
- Will not release, digitally upload, broadcast, transcribe, or otherwise share all or any part of the recordings. They also agree that they not profit financially and will not allow others to benefit personally or financially from lecture recordings or other course materials.
- Will erase/delete all recordings at the end of the semester.
- Understand that violation of these terms may subject them to discipline under the Student Code of Conduct or subject them to liability under copyright laws."

FERPA STATEMENT

The following is taken verbatim from the Syllabus Checklist:

"The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) grants students certain information privacy rights. See the registrar's explanation. FERPA allows disclosure of directory information (name, address, telephone, email, date of birth, place of birth, major, activities, degrees, awards, prior schools), unless requested in a written letter to the registrar."

DISABILITY SERVICES

The following is taken verbatim from the Disability Resource Center:

"If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please register with the Disability Resource Center. They can be reached by visiting Clark Howell Hall, calling 706-542-8719 (voice) or 706-542-8778 (TTY), or by visiting the Disability Resource Center"

The following is taken verbatim from the document of Syllabus Creation:

"Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor or designate during regular office hours or by appointment."

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESOURCES

The following is taken verbatim from the University Council:

"If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit the website of Student Care and Outreach. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services or crisis support. If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center. Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App."