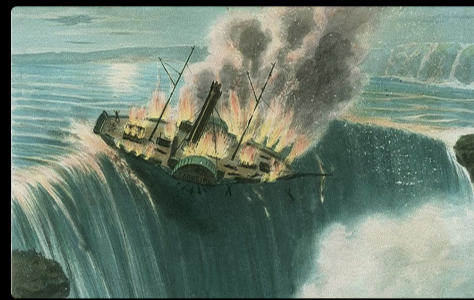


INTL 4210

Introduction to Intl Law

Dr. Leah Carmichael



1. Constitutional Law

Before understanding international law, we will examine elements of domestic law

2. Statehood Status

Examine the enduring nature of the legal status of statehood

3. Intl Customs

Understand the concept of customary law as it applies to *The Caroline* Affair.

4. Subsidiary Sources

Apply the concept of subsidiary sources to the historic Corfu Channel case.



5. Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

Apply UNCLOS to the overlapping territorial claims in the South China Sea, while exploring motivations for seeking regress in certain DRMs.

6. Intl Humanitarian Law

Examine the U.S. presence in Guantanamo Bay and the term 'unlawful combatants' through the lens of the Geneva Conventions

7. Intl Human Rights Law

Consider the policies proposed by Kenya to reconsider its refugee policy in the face of terrorist attacks in 2016.

Learn More About Careers in International Law

Instructor & Course Logistics



Instructor:

Dr. Leah Carmichael
(she/her)



Time & Place

Tuesdays & Thursdays,
9:35 AM to 10:50 AM
Sanford Hall, Room 212



Email

leahlang@uga.edu



Peer Learning Assistants (PLAs)

Allison Adcock &
Raquel Caldas Laranjeira



Course Reader

There will be no textbook, but
instead an online course
reader located via ELC.



Office Hours

Dr. Carmichael will host
office hours from 11:00 AM to
1:00 PM on Tuesday and
Thursdays by Appt in
Sanford, Room 307

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 matter to rational, self-interested states and individuals without 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 be able to:

- 1 Key Concepts**
Identify key concepts and cases in international law
- 2 Intl Law Cases**
Apply key concepts within historical and fictional cases
- 3 Multiple Legal Perspectives**
Analyze cases from multiple legal perspectives
- 4 Evaluate Legal Arguments**
Evaluate the merits of legal arguments
- 5 Create Legal Arguments**
Create, present, and defend original legal arguments

Course Schedule

Welcome

- *Tuesday 1.07.25* (No Assignments Due)
- ~~*Thursday 1.09.25* (No Class – Dr. Carmichael at SPSA Conference)~~

Module One: Introduction to Legal Arguments

- *Tuesday 1.14.25* - (Module One Course Reader Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Thursday 1.16.25* - (Module One Legal Argument Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Tuesday 1.21.25* - (Module One Memorial Arguments Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Thursday 1.23.25* - (Module One Legal Briefs Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Tuesday 1.28.25** - (Module One Reflection Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)

Module Two: Treaties & Statehood Status

- *Tuesday 1.28.25** - (Module Two Course Reader Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Thursday 1.30.25* - (Module Two Legal Argument Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Tuesday 2.04.25* - (Module Two Memorial Arguments Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Thursday 2.06.25* - (Module Two Legal Briefs Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Tuesday 2.11.25** - (Module Two Reflection Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)

Module Three: International Customary Law

- *Tuesday 2.11.25** - (Module Three Course Reader Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Thursday 2.13.25* - (Module Three Legal Argument Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Tuesday 2.18.25* - (Module Three Memorial Arguments Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Thursday 2.20.25* - (Module Three Legal Briefs Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Tuesday 2.25.25** - (Module Three Reflection Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)

* Dates include multiple assignment submissions

Course Schedule (Contd)

Module Four: Subsidiary Sources

- *Tuesday 2.25.25** - (Module Four Course Reader Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Thursday 2.27.25* - (Module Four Legal Argument Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)

{SPRING BREAK}

- *Tuesday 3.11.25* - (Module Four Memorial Arguments Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Thursday 3.13.25* - (Module Four Legal Briefs Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Tuesday 3.18.25** - (Module Four Reflection Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)

Module Five: Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

- *Tuesday 3.18.25** - (Module Five Course Reader Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Thursday 3.20.25* - (Module Five Legal Argument Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Tuesday 3.25.25* - (Module Five Memorial Arguments Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Thursday 3.27.25* - (Module Five Legal Briefs Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Tuesday 4.1.25** - (Module Five Reflection Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)

Module Six: International Humanitarian Law

- *Tuesday 4.1.25** - (Module Six Course Reader Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Thursday 4.3.25* - (Module Six Legal Argument Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Tuesday 4.8.25* - (Module Six Memorial Arguments Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Thursday 4.10.25* - (Module Six Legal Briefs Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Tuesday 4.15.25** - (Module Six Reflection Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)

Module Seven: International Human Rights Law

- *Tuesday 4.15.25** - (Module Seven Course Reader Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Thursday 4.17.25* - (Module Seven Legal Argument Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Tuesday 4.22.25* - (Module Seven Memorial Arguments Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Thursday 4.24.25* - (Module Seven Legal Briefs Due @ 9:00 am)
- *Tuesday 4.29.25* - (Module Seven Reflection Assignment Due @ 9:00 am)

* Dates include multiple assignment submissions

Assignments

Attendance

The purpose of an attendance policy is to ensure students develop skills to be a dependable team member and class participant. Each student is able to have three unexcused absences (so long as they let their group members know they will not be present and are responsible for completing all work missed). After three unexcused absences, each subsequent unexcused absence deducts 1.5 percent from the final grade. Coming late and leaving class early will be considered unexcused absences without proper communication with your group and instructor.

10%

*Unexcused absence
after three
worth 1.5% each*

Course Reader Assignments

The purpose of these assignments is for students to identify main ideas from course materials. At the beginning of each module, each student will review the materials outside of class before the first class period. While reading the material (i.e., open notes), students will complete a Course Reader Assignment on eLC.

20%

*Seven assignments,
each worth 2.86%*

Legal Argument Assignments

The purpose of these assignments is for students to apply the concepts of international law to the facts of the case. These assignments will be available on eLC, and students should complete these assignments individually.

20%

*Seven assignments,
each worth 2.86%*

Memorial Arguments

The purpose of these assignments is for students to work collaboratively to create draft legal briefs from *both* perspectives in a course case (i.e., the Applicants and Respondents). These Memorials will help students evaluate inconsistencies within the law, apply laws to the facts of a case, identify which facts are most relevant (and which are not), and formulate legal arguments from opposing perspectives. A template and rubric for all Memorials will be made available on eLC. Students will use Memorials to prepare their final written arguments (i.e., Legal Briefs) and oral presentations during the moot court. All memorials should be submitted via a Discussion thread to allow group members to easily review each other's assignments.

20%

*Seven assignments,
each worth 2.86%*

Legal Briefs

Students will each submit an original legal argument, or Legal Brief. These briefs will create an original legal argument that advocates from the legal perspective of *either* the Applicant or Respondent (not both). These legal briefs are graded based on the quality of the argument and whether the argument follows the correct format, as discussed in class.

20%

*Seven assignments,
each worth 2.86%*

Reflection

Students will be able to reflect on their group's overall and individual successes and challenges as well as the evolution in their position on the political issue at hand from the beginning of the module until its end.

10%

*Seven assignments,
each worth 1.43%*

Attendance & Assignment Expectations

- Regular attendance is required due to the interactive and collaborative nature of this course.
- In the rare circumstances in which you will not be in attendance, no documentation is needed so long as you communicate to your group that you will be absent and submit all assignments via eLC before the deadline.
- If you do not submit an assignment before the deadline and wish to have an extension, you must provide a formally documented excuse (e.g., doctor's note) via email to the instructor (leahlang@uga.edu) within 24 hours of the assignment deadline. Your instructor will review the documentation and respond via email with a plan for submitting the overdue assignment.
- In addition to documentation to the instructor, you must also include evidence that you contacted your group members if you were unable to assist with the work (please do not include any formal documentation to your peers). In such case, your instructor will review the documentation and evidence of correspondence with the group. If accepted, she will respond via email with a plan for submitting an individual assignment in lieu of the group work.
- Assignments will be created from original thought and not AI generation for this course. This is not to say that AI is not useful. However, for this introductory course, it is essential students demonstrate their own understanding of the course material throughout each assignment. Failure to adhere to these expectations will result in a submission of your case to academic dishonesty.

Fundamental Rules of Respect

- We will be respectful and actively engaged with each other and the ideas presented by others. Both personally and professionally, I value open discourse across the political spectrum.
- If you feel that anyone is not allowing you to express well-informed political opinions at any time, please feel free to communicate with me. We will all work to ensure that our contributions to the class discussion improve (rather than detract from) the quality of the course. Active engagement is prized, but we will not tolerate discourse meant to quiet others. Instead, we will work toward discussions that seek to value all contributions.
- Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important when dealing with differences in race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities.
- Class rosters with the student's legal name are provided to the instructor. I am eager to address you by your preferred name and/or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

Grading Scale

| | |
|-------------|----|
| 94 to 100 | A |
| 90 to 93.99 | A- |
| 88 to 89.99 | B+ |
| 82 to 87.99 | B |
| 80 to 81.99 | B- |
| 78 to 79.99 | C+ |
| 72 to 77.99 | C |
| 70 to 71.99 | C- |
| 60 to 69.99 | D |

There is no rounding of grades.

Academic Integrity

All students must demonstrate academic integrity in all parts of the course. Any cases of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the University's guidelines. The University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty can be found at https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/Prohibited_Conduct/

FERPA

The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) grants students certain information privacy rights. For more details, visit www.apps.reg.uga.edu/FERPA/. Learning Accommodation Policy

UGA is committed to creating an inclusive and accessible course environment. Students needing accommodations should contact the instructor or the Disability Resource Center.

Additional Student Resources

Various support services are available, including the Office of Student Care & Outreach, Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS), and Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention.