

INTL 4211: Advanced International Law
University of Georgia, Department of International Affairs

Course Instructor Information:

Dr. Erin Little

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Office hours by appointment in-person (217
Candler Hall) or Zoom (link available on eLC)

Course Meeting Information:

MWF, 1:50-2:40pm

Caldwell Hall 102

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

As the International Law courses focuses exclusively on public international law, this course applies the same skills in developing legal arguments, evaluating the facts of a case, and interpreting sources of law to *private* international law. Private international law explores the complex relationship between the sovereign, varied domestic laws of a state and legal issues that involve a foreign element (therefore inviting the role of foreign laws and/or foreign jurisdiction).

Given the complex, individual-level nature of many of these cases, the course content shifts from broad legal regimes to more focused subject areas. In particular, we supplement prerequisite coursework with more dedicated attention to trade, labor, and the intersection between human rights law and family law.

EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

SELF-GUIDED CASE PUZZLE

As a capstone assignment for this course, students will have to research a suitable case within the scope of private international law. The case can be of their choosing, with confirmation from the instructor, but should concern one of the legal regimes we discuss in class. Each student will be asked to write a short summary with all key facts of the case needed to answer a set of 3 questions. Original case documentation should be linked in the final submission. The project is divided into 3 assignments. After the first assignment, in which students submit their case selection, each student will be provided the 3 questions for which the summary must meet, and in the last part of the assignment, the student must themselves answer the 3 questions. In most cases, the first 1-2 questions will be the same for every student and the last question(s) will be more bespoke to the context of the case.

QUIZZES

There are no exams in this course. However, you will have 5 quizzes throughout the semester on the readings and lectures for each module, worth 3% each, due by the dates marked below in the course schedule.

MOOT COURTS

We will have 3 moot courts concerning predefined cases that incorporate international elements and would be considered part of private international law. For each case, students will be divided into Applicants, Respondents, and Judges, much like moot courts in INTL 4210. For each case, all students will be asked to submit a memorial, highlighting core elements of the case law and your group's interpretation of that law. Relevant case law will include not only public international law, but also domestic law on the specific case and State environments concerned. A debate will conclude each moot court, in which both sides will present their arguments and the judges will determine both the verdict and the proposed settlement.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance will be taken randomly 5 times during the semester (worth 2% each) and on moot court debate days. 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. While attendance is not taken for each class session, 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.

GENERATIVE AI POLICY

Generative AI tools, such as Chat GPT and Grammarly, are permitted for all assignments in this course to assist in spelling, grammar, and diction. For any final research papers or projects, students may be required to submit a generative AI version of the assignment populated from their research question and a prompt of their choice, noted on the submission. This version will be submitted separately alongside the final document. Only the final document will be graded.

GRADING POLICY

The breakdown of your grades and the scoring rubric for this course are below (P/F indicates a Pass/Fail grade):

10% - Attendance

15% - Module Quizzes

45% - Moot Courts (15% each)

- 5% Debate participation
- 10% Memorial

30% - Self-guided Case Puzzle

- 5% - Case selection
- 10% - Case write-up
- 15% - Answers to provided question prompts

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 I: INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW	
Jan. 6, 8, 10	Week 1 – Introduction and Review of Public International Law
Topics	Overview of the syllabus Review of basic concepts from public international law
Jan. 13, 15, 17	Week 2 – Introduction to Private International Law

Topics	Establishing jurisdiction (domestic vs. international) Summary of private international legal regimes
<i>Due by 1/22</i>	<i>Module I Quiz</i>

MODULE II: PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW AND GAME THEORY	
Jan. 22, 24	Week 3 – Basic Game Theoretic Principles <i>1/20 – NO CLASS; MLK, Jr. Day</i>
Topics	Behavioral rationality Identifying State/leader preferences
Jan. 27, 29, 31	Week 4 – Game Theoretic Principles and State Interests
Topics	How private international law restructures State interests
Readings	
Feb. 3, 5, 7	Week 5 – Nested Games
Topics	Understanding a nested games framework Dynamic interactions among States and international organizations
<i>Due 2/10</i>	<i>Module II Quiz</i>
Feb. 10, 12, 14	Week 6 – Case Example: Human Rights violations in Xinjiang
Topics	Using game theoretic principles to answer the question, ‘Why haven’t we seen a stronger international response to China’s human rights abuses in Xinjiang?’

MODULE III: LABOR LAW

Feb. 17, 19, 21	Week 7 – Regulating International Labor Standards
Topics	International Labor Organization (ILO) and private international law State vs. International Labor Regulations
<i>Feb. 24th</i>	<i>Module III Quiz</i>
Feb. 24, 26, 28	Week 8 – Moot Court #1
Topics	<i>Ravat v Halliburton Manufacturing and Services Ltd. labor case (2012)</i>
Readings	Case materials will be made available on eLC
<i>Due by 4/28 at 11:59pm</i>	<i>Self-guided Case Puzzle case selection</i>
Mar. 3-7	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

MODULE IV: TRADE LAW	
Mar. 10, 12, 14	Week 9 – Regulating International Trade
Topics	Fundamentals of trade law: <i>lex mercatoria</i> and <i>lex maritima</i> World Trade Organization (WTO) and trade agreements
Mar. 17, 19, 21	Week 10 – Underground Markets and Trafficking
Topics	Conflict zones and clandestine markets Regulating drug and human trafficking
<i>Due by 3/24</i>	<i>Module IV Quiz</i>

Mar. 24, 26, 28	Week 11 – Moot Court #2
Topics	Rare Earths Trade dispute: US, Japan, EU v. China (2012)
Readings	Case materials will be made available on eLC

MODULE V: MIGRANT AND FAMILY LAW

Mar. 31, Apr. 2, 4	Week 12 – Immigration and Asylum
Topics	Domestic immigration policy and legal protection for asylum seekers Migration due to natural disasters and defining an “environmental refugee”
<i>Due by 4/7 at 11:59pm</i>	<i>Self-guided case puzzle summary</i>
Apr. 7, 9, 11	Week 13 – Extradition and International Criminal Law
Topics	Interpol, the ICC, and State-level criminal courts Enforcement of international law and Domestic extradition policy
Apr. 14, 16, 18	Week 14 – Family Law
Topics	Establishing nationality and citizenship across borders Child soldiers, orphans, adoptees, and trafficked persons
<i>Due by 4/21 at 11:59pm</i>	<i>Module V Quiz</i>
Apr. 21, 23, 25	Week 15 – Moot Court #3
Topics	<i>Coulibaly v. Stevanca (2017)</i>

Readings	Case materials will be made available on eLC
Apr. 28	Workshop Day
Topics	Day to work on your case puzzle answers and review any remaining questions <i>Attendance optional</i>
May 5th at 11:59pm	Self-Guided Case Puzzle answers are due

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.”