
POSC 4470 – INTERNATIONAL LAW

Section 1, Spring 2020, Syllabus

<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Office Hours</i>	<i>Class</i>
<i>Tara Trask (M.A.)</i>	ttrask@clemson.edu taraetrask.com	Tues & Thurs: 1-2pm Office: TBD	Tues & Thurs 2:00-3:15 313 Academic Success Center

Course Overview:

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.

The second part of the course will extend these foundations to the intersection of domestic and international law, and then apply them to five key issues areas: human rights, laws of the sea, the environment, international crimes, and the use of force. In doing so, students will begin to compare areas in which the international law may be more or less effective in shaping interactions among states and individuals. 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 relations perspective.

Course Goals:

1. Comprehend the basic principles, practices, and instruments of international law.
2. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the international law process.
3. Assess the effectiveness of international law in today's global system.
4. Articulate clear and evidenced-based arguments while acknowledging applicable counterarguments.
5. Cooperate and communicate with one another to share knowledge and expertise.
6. Recognize where the course material fits into scholarly dialogue and analyze strengths/weaknesses within an argument.
7. Identify applicability of course material to personal interests and real-world events.

Required Materials:

Required: Murphy, Sean D. 2018. *Principles of International Law*, 3rd edition.
ISBN-978-1-68328-677-6

Canvas will be used for announcements, required reading materials, the course calendar, as well as to submit assignments and take assessments. It is essential that students monitor its content regularly (<http://clemson.instructure.com>)

Assessment Overview:

Chapter Summaries	(20%)
Explanatory Article	(20 %)
Treaty Project	(20 %)
Midterm Exam	(15 %)
Final Exam	(15 %)
Participation & Attendance	(10 %)

Grade Scale	
A	90 –100
B	80-89.99
C	70-79.99
D	60-69.99
F	<59.99

Chapter Summaries: 20%

For each day there is a chapter of reading assigned, there is a Chapter Summary due by midnight the night before. These should include a 300-500 word summary of the core concepts and/or key debate outlined in the reading, a short explanation of how the chapter relates to previous course material, and 3-5 discussion questions. Students must complete 4 of the 6 options prior to the midterm exam, and 6 of the 8 options after the midterm exam. For more details and advice, refer to the handout on Canvas. Late work will be accepted for half credit until noon after the deadline.

Explanatory Article: 20%

The large individual project for the class will be the development of an explanatory article. Students will select a current international treaty to write a 1000-1200 word article. The grade will be composed of participation in these workshops on components – proposed topic, outline, full draft, and final submission. For more information, refer to the handouts on Canvas.

1. Explanatory Article Topic – 1 pt.
2. Explanatory Article Outline – 5 pts.
3. Draft Explanatory Article – 5 pts.
4. Final Explanatory Article – 9 pts.

Treaty Project: 20%

The large group project for the class will be the drafting of a treaty. This simulation will provide you with the opportunity to apply key concepts from the course. This is a team project that will include a collective activity, individual submissions, and routine peer evaluations of each member of your group.

You will be graded on the quality of the team submission and your individual contributions. *Italicized* items will be graded individually. **Bold** items will be graded as a team. For more information on each component, refer to the handouts on Canvas. Self & Peer Evaluations will not affect Treaty Project grades. Any deductions will be taken from Participation Points.

1. *Treaty Committee Contract* – 1pt.
2. *Research Brief* – 5 pts.
3. **Treaty Draft** – 3 pts.
4. *Self & Peer Evaluation I* – 1 pt.
5. **Revised Treaty Packet** – 5 pt.
6. *Self & Peer Evaluation II* – 1 pt.
7. Treaty Conventions
 - a. Present – 2 pt.
 - b. Debate – 2 pt.

Exams: 15% Each

Exam material will be drawn from assigned readings, class discussion, any movies shown in class, and any other supplementary materials. The multiple choice will evaluate mainly definitional knowledge. The essays will evaluate argumentation, broader theoretical understanding, and the ability to formulate and express an informed opinion. The final exam will be cumulative.

Attendance & Participation: 10%

Attendance: Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class each day.

Excused Absence: Excused absences are considered to be: (1) because of participation in University-sanctioned activities and programs, (2) because of personal illness, or (3) because of compelling family and/or other circumstances. You must provide written documentation verifying that your absence is due to one of these factors no later than one week after the class period in question.

Unexcused Absence: You have three (3) unexcused absences to use whenever necessary. I do not need to know the cause of these. After three unexcused absences, each unexcused absence will result in a deduction of 2 percent from your final grade. No more than ten percent (10%) of your grade will be deducted based on absences.

Participation: Attendance is a necessary but not sufficient condition for class participation. Participation should include meaningful contributions to the overall quality of the class. Participation will be graded out of 10 points. Any deductions for absences will be deducted from your participation point total.

Contact:

In person: My office hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30p.m. to 1:30p.m. These are hours I set aside every week specifically for you. Feel free to drop by without appointment if you have any questions or concerns, about class, your time at Clemson, or anything else that may be useful to you. If you can't meet with me during my office hours, feel free to e-mail me to set up an appointment at a different time.

Email: Other than talking to me before/after class or at my office hours, email is the next best way. Feel free to contact me anytime at ttrask@clemson.edu. Please allow 48 hours for me to respond.

Disabilities:

Students with disabilities of any kind are strongly encouraged to notify me at the beginning of the semester, so appropriate accommodations can be made. Qualified students are those who present a Faculty Accommodation Letter from Student Disability Services when we meet. Student disability services is located in G-20 Redfern (656-6848).

Do NOT attempt to make it through the semester without notifying me of accommodations you qualify for. If you decide to forego these, and then discover you do need them later in the semester, I can be more helpful if I have spoken to you about this previously.

Title IX:

Clemson University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, veteran's status, genetic information or protected activity (e.g., opposition to prohibited discrimination or participation in any complaint process, etc.) in

employment, educational programs and activities, admissions and financial aid. This includes a prohibition against sexual harassment and sexual violence as mandated by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This policy is located at <http://www.clemson.edu/campuslife/campus-services/access/title-ix/>. Mr. Jerry Knighton is the Clemson University Title IX Coordinator. He also is the Director of Access and Equity. His office is located at 111 Holtzendorff Hall, 864.656.3181 (voice) or 864.565.0899 (TDD).

Academic Integrity:

“As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson’s vision of this institution as a “high seminary of learning.” Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form.”

When, in the opinion of a course instructor, there is evidence that a student has committed an act of academic dishonesty, the instructor must make a formal written charge of academic dishonesty, including a description of the misconduct to the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies. The reporting instructor may, at his/her discretion, inform each involved student privately of the nature of the alleged charge. In cases of plagiarism (I.B.2.) instructors may use the Plagiarism Resolution Form available from the Office of Undergraduate Studies (http://www.cs.clemson.edu/html/academics/academic_integrity_2002.html)

Other Policies:

1. Any exam or assignment scheduled at the time of a class cancellation due to inclement weather will be rescheduled to the next class meeting, unless contacted by the instructor.
2. Students should behave professionally throughout the course, including but not limited to: respectful discussion and consideration of others’ views, raising one’s hand to ask questions of the instructor instead of conversing with other students, and referring to the syllabus before asking questions about basic course policy.
3. Laptops may be used to take notes in class, but not in a way that is disruptive to other students. Should laptops become more of a hindrance than a help in class, I reserve the right to prohibit them from the classroom from that point on.
4. Cell phones should be put away during class, either on vibrate or silent. Taking pictures of slides is permitted, but should be kept to a minimum. I reserve the right to prohibit the practice at any point during the semester.
5. Please allow 10 minutes for the instructor to show up to class. If the instructor has not shown up 10 minutes after the beginning of the scheduled class time, students are free to leave.

Course Schedule: (tentative)

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

Week 1		Introduction to the Course	
Thursday	1/9	Introduction to the Course	Syllabus Quiz
Week 2		The Setup	
Tuesday	1/14	The Backstory	- CS: Option 1 due midnight the night before. - Murphy, Chapter 1.
Thursday	1/16	Cast of Characters	- CS: Option 2 due midnight the night before. - Murphy, Chapter 2. - TD: Treaty Design Survey due on Canvas.
Week 3		Making & Breaking, Part I	
Tuesday	1/21	Treaties & Customs	- CS: Option 3 due midnight the night before. - Murphy, Chapter 3.
Thursday	1/23	DIY Country	- Keating, 2008, "How to Start Your Own Country in Four Easy Steps." <i>Foreign Policy</i>. - EA: Proposed Explanatory Article Topic due on Canvas by midnight. - TD: Committee Contracts due on Canvas by midnight. All members should submit a copy of the contract to signify agreement.
Week 4		Making & Breaking, Part II	
Tuesday	1/28	Mechanics	- CS: Option 4 due midnight the night before. - Murphy, Chapter 4.
Thursday	1/30	Courts	TD: Research Briefs due on Canvas and to committee chair.
Week 5		Compliance & Coercion	
Tuesday	2/4	Compliance & Coercion	- CS: Option 5 due midnight the night before. - Murphy, Chapter 5.
Thursday	2/6	NO CLASS: Instructor at Conference	EA: Explanatory Article Outline due on Canvas by midnight.
Week 6		Responsibility & Attribution	
Tuesday	2/11	Responsibility & Attribution	- CS: Option 6 due midnight the night before. - Murphy, Chapter 6.
Thursday	2/13	Review for Midterm	
Week 7		MIDTERM	
Tuesday	2/18	Midterm Exam	
Thursday	2/20	Movie Day	
Week 8		Domestic vs. International Law	
Tuesday	2/25	Federal & State Relations	- CS: Option 7 due midnight the night before. - Murphy, Chapter 7: 255-290.

Thursday	2/27	Intl Law & the U.S.	▪ Murphy, Chapter 7: 290-310.
Week 9		Jurisdiction & Immunity	
Tuesday	3/3	Jurisdiction	▪ CS: Option 8 due midnight the night before. ▪ Murphy: Chapter 8.
Thursday	3/5	Immunity	▪ CS: Option 9 due midnight the night before. ▪ Murphy: Chapter 9.
Week 10		Human Rights	
Tuesday	3/10	The Basics	▪ CS: Option 10 due midnight the night before. ▪ Murphy, Chapter 10: 389-420.
Thursday	3/12	Institutions & Instruments	▪ Murphy, Chapter 10: 420-447. ▪ <i>EA: Draft of Explanatory Article due on Canvas by midnight</i>
Week 11		Spring Break	
Tuesday	3/17	Spring Break	▪
Thursday	3/19	Spring Break	▪
Week 12		Laws of the Sea	
Tuesday	3/24	Laws of the Sea	▪ CS: Option 11 due midnight the night before. ▪ Murphy, Chapter 11.
Thursday	3/26	NO CLASS: Instructor at Conference	▪ <i>TD: Treaty Drafts due on Canvas by midnight (one submission per committee).</i> ▪ <i>TD: Self & Peer Evaluation I due on Canvas by midnight (download form, fill it out, and then upload).</i>
Week 13		The Environment & International Crimes	
Tuesday	3/31	Environmental	▪ CS: Option 12 due midnight the night before. ▪ Murphy, Chapter 12.
Thursday	4/2	International Crimes	▪ CS: Option 13 due midnight the night before. ▪ Murphy, Chapter 13.
Week 14		The Use of Force	
Tuesday	4/7	<i>Jus Ad Bellum</i>	▪ CS: Option 14 due midnight the night before. ▪ Murphy, Chapter 14: 573-602.
Thursday	4/9	<i>Jus In Bello</i>	▪ Murphy, Chapter 14: 602-627. ▪ <i>TD: Revised Treaty due on Canvas by midnight (one submission per committee).</i> ▪ <i>TD: Supporter & Opponent Dossiers due on Canvas by midnight.</i> ▪ <i>TD: Self & Peer Evaluation II due on Canvas by midnight (download form, fill it out, and then upload).</i>
Week 15		Treaty Convention Prep	
Tuesday	4/14	Treaty Convention Prep	▪
Thursday	4/16	NO CLASS: Instructor at Conference	▪ <u><i>EA: Final Article due on Canvas by midnight.</i></u>

Week 16		Treaty Convention	
Tuesday	4/21	Treaty Convention	▪
Thursday	4/23	Treaty Convention	▪
Week 17		Final Exam	