Syllabus

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Summer "B" 2020

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

Course Name	INR 4401 - International Law
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Summer 2020
Location	web-based

Course Description

UCF Catalog Description: (Prerequisites: ENC 1102 or POS 2041 or consent of instructor) The nature, evolution, and sources of international law and examination of various sub-areas such as recognition, maritime law, nationality, and war.

Course Overview: International Law is a 6-weeks online course designed to introduce the student to public international law - the legal regime of the international political system of states and other entities in that system. While useful to students desiring to go on to law school, the primary purpose of the course is to provide the basic tools for any student to better understand the influence and contribution of law to the world in which we live. The course is one of the options in the Functional Restricted electives of the International and Global Studies major as well as an elective in the International/Comparative track of the Political Science major (minor) and one of the three options in the Restricted law course of the Pre-Law track of the Political Science major.

Course Objectives

- Introduce you to the nature and sources of international law; how that law developed; and how it relates to municipal (national) law
- Gain an understanding of the role of law in aiding both stability and peaceful change in the international system
- familiarize you with the legal principles which create the subjects of international law and govern their succession or demise
- examine the rights and duties of the subjects of international law

- suggest how individuals fit into the scheme of things
- introduce you to the legal principles, customs, and norms which govern national jurisdiction over spatial domain and problems in extraterritorial jurisdiction
- introduce you to the legal principles, customs, and norms that govern nations during the course of their international transactions through diplomacy and treaties
- examine those norms that prevail when law fails in its role of aiding both stability and peaceful change in the international system and international disputes and/or conflicts occur
- gain insight into how international law has been instrumental in improving both the human and global environment

The course will nurture basic tools for you to better understand the law. These tools include critical thinking, appreciation of diversity, and accessing technology. **Critical thinking** is central to the analysis and assessment of the law; **diversity** influences how different nations/cultures view that law; and **technology** is an incredible tool to aid you in researching that law.

Required Text

All students must purchase Gerhard von Glahn and James Larry Taulbee, *Law Among Nations: An Introduction to Public International Law*. 11th ed. Routledge. 2017. ISBN 978-1-138-69172-8.

The textbook is available at the UCF Bookstore and possibly off-campus bookstores as well as Amazon and textbook rental sites. Be aware that some sources may take time to get to you and in a 6-weeks course this can be a serious problem. Timeliness is more important than money.

Course Requirements

The course will consist of a series of **Learning Modules** based upon **Chapters** in your textbook, which consist of reading each chapter, taking a **Quiz** on each chapter, and completing an **Assignment** (consisting of either a case brief, a research essay, or both) for each Module. Refer to the **Schedule** and **Calendar** for due dates for elements of the course. The entire course will open at once but each Module might have different closing dates. Thus, you can complete Modules are soon as you wish and complete those ahead of time if you know you will be out of town on business, etc. If your summer calendar is filled with competitions, regionals, away sports events, a full academic load, and/or full-time work, then you should not be taking this course. This course will occupy a considerable portion of your summer. The entire course is open at the beginning of the term and you know what your schedule looks like for the term. Do not put off Modules until the deadline - it will spell disaster for you!

If you wait until the last minute and the server is down, there are technical issues, or your computer crashes, that is not my problem. You will have missed a quiz and/or an assignment. Once the clock runs out, that is it. Waiting until 11:58pm or 11:59pm on the last day when the deadline is 11:59pm will likely result in your not being able to submit your assignment. Give yourself days of lead time to get technical problems addressed (see Support Services, Tech Support, Help Desk).

Makeups and Extra Credit

There is no extra credit built into the course. Once the clock runs out on Quizzes, there is no extension. When the clock runs out on submitting Assignments, they need to be submitted to me as an e-mail attachment and a letter grade will be dropped each day the assignment is late.

Evaluation and Grading

The course is based upon completion of module quizzes and assignments. If it is found that you are submitting work done by someone else or plagiarizing, the minimum penalty will be zero on the quiz or assignment and persistent infractions will lead to academic disciplinary action. (see Academic Honesty section below).

To calculate your grade, take your total points and divide by 180. This will give you your course average and then refer to the chart below for the corresponding letter grade. The Tutorial and Student quiz is for your own benefit - it is not part of your total points or grade for the course.

Letter Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

Assignment	Points
Module 0	10
Module 1	25
Module 2	25
Module 3	30
Module 4	30
Module 5	30
Module 6	30
Total	180

Note: there are no + and - grades for the final course grade.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the **UCF Golden Rule** **(http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/)** for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone (e.g., reopening a Module quiz or accepting a late submission for an assignment) .

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided

until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Web Sites

There are hundreds of sites that provide resources to study international law. The following are a good beginning for information and resources. There will be specific web sites for you in each Module.

The American Journal of International Law (available online through the UCF Library)

Institute for International Law and Justice **(http://www.iilj.org/)** at New York University

The Avalon Project **(http://avalon.law.yale.edu)** at Yale Law School

www.un.org/law/avl **(http://www.un.org/law/avl)** (this is the UN AudioVisual Library)

(see also the Journals attachment in Announcements)

Schedule

Week/Date	Topic	Assignments	Due Dates
Week 1	Module 0: Introductory (opens 06/22/20)	• Complete 2-part Assignment (Case Brief; Introduction)	06/26/20 11:59pm
Week 1	Module 1: The Nature of International Law (opens 06/22/20)	• Read Chapter 1 • Take Chapter 1 Quiz • Complete essay Assignment (Background)	06/29/20 11:59pm
Week 2	Module 2: Sources of International Law (opens 06/22/20)	• Read Chapter 3 • Take Chapter 3 Quiz • Complete Case Brief Assignment (Sources)	07/05/20 11:59pm
Week 3	Module 3: Legal Process and Application (opens 06/22/20)	• Read Chapters 5, 6 (and pp. 593-600) • Take Chapters 5 and 6 Quizzes • Complete essay Assignment (Case Briefs)	07/11/20 11:59pm
Week 4	Module 4: States	• Read Chapters 7, 8	07/17/20

	(opens 06/22/20)	• Take Chapters 7 and 8 Quizzes • Complete essay Assignment (Kosovo)	11:59pm
Week 5	Module 5: Jurisdiction (opens 06/22/20)	• Read Chapters 10, 11 • Take Chapters 10 and 11 Quizzes • Complete essay Assignment (Hypothetical Scenario)	07/24/20 11:59pm
Week 6	Module 6: Maritime Law; Diplomacy (opens 06/22/20)	• Read Chapters 12, 14 • Take Chapters 12 and 14 Quizzes • Complete essay Assignment (Diplomacy)	07/31/20 11:59pm
	There is no Final Exam		

Note: All dates are subject to change by Dr. Bledsoe. Routinely check the class **Announcements** for any changes or updates.

Protocols

Classroom Expectations

The following ground rules will help your work in this course to go much more smoothly. Please carefully review these expectations and follow them.

1. Academic integrity will be appraised according to the student academic behavior standards outlined in T**he Golden Rule of the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook.** **(http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/%20)**
2. Don't turn in late assignments. Late submissions will result in a letter grade reduction for each day late.
3. Keep up with the reading. You have 10 chapters to read for the class, 10 quizzes to take, and 6 essay assignments to complete in a short 6 weeks time. Please keep up with the reading. Students who keep up with the reading tend to do much better in this kind of class than those who do not.
4. Don't miss a quiz - they may not be retaken or submitted late.
5. All of your work is to be done individually. There are no Group projects in the course.

Announcements

This is reserved for me. Monitor it daily but do not respond to any announcement in that function - send me an e-mail.

Conversations/Inbox (E-mail)

E-mail is not a graded component of this course (other than Module 0) but is an integral part of communicating in this course and, if necessary, for submitting assignments. Make sure you:

1. Check your e-mail at least daily. Also check your assignment submission in your Grades (sometimes there will be a Comment there even though there is no grade - often telling you that you submitted your assignment in a format that cannot be read; this is often the case if using a Mac that does not have Word)
2. Be patient. Don't expect an immediate response when you send a message. Generally, two days is considered reasonable amount of time to receive a reply (not counting weekends). Do not send me an urgent message about an assignment the day before or the morning of the day it is due.
3. Inside the Course Conversations function,when you are asking about a quiz question or topic, be sure to refer to the quiz question subject (rather than #s) or module assignment subject so I know what you are talking about. If you are communicating outside of Conversations, use either the course title or course number in the "Subject" heading so I know you are a student in the class. If there is nothing that links your e-mail to the class, I will delete it as spam. Be sure that you include you name at the end of your message so I know who you are, as e-mail addresses are not always easily identifiable.
4. Be courteous and considerate. Being honest and expressing yourself freely is very important but being considerate of others online is just as important as in the classroom.
5. Make every effort to be clear. Online communication lacks the nonverbal cues that fill in much of the meaning in face-to-face communication.
6. Do not use all caps. This makes the message very hard to read and is considered "shouting." Check spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
7. Break up large blocks of text into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.
8. Sign your e-mail messages if they are outside of the course Conversations function. Otherwise, I will not recognize you.
9. Never assume that your e-mail can be read by no one except yourself; others may be able to read or access your mail. Never send or keep anything that you would not like seeing on the evening news (e.g., the Mark Foley scandal where a Florida Congressman was e-mailing Congressional Pages with questionable content or the photographs Congressman Anthony Wiener sent online).

Note: Review the Netiquette, Viruses and Technical Resources sections below

Discussion

Many of the "rules of the road" or protocols that apply to e-mail also apply to the use of discussions. Use the following conventions when composing a discussion posting:

1. There are no Discussion assignments as part of your course grade, It is an excellent means of communicating with your peers, asking questions about assignments or seeking help in finding correct links to assignment materials. Since you may be encountering a similar problem that one or more of your colleagues has experienced and has sought help or information by a Discussion posting, it is a good practice to always check Discussions multiple times during the week. I encourage all of you to help one another if there are difficulties or confusion. Be a Good Samaritan.
2. If you want to send a personal message to the instructor or to another student, use e-mail rather than the discussions (see above e-mail protocols).
3. Use the Discussion function for questions about course materials, assignments, or technical issues. The Announcements function is reserved for me. I will use this for all important messages to the class, so check it every time you log into the course. Do not respond to my announcements in the Announcement function. Use e-mail to get back to me.
4. Be patient. Don’t expect an immediate response when you send a message.
5. A helpful hint for use with both discussions and e-mail --- Compose your message in your word-processing application in order to check spelling, punctuation, and grammar --- then copy and paste your composition into e-mail or the discussion. This also saves online time. Poor spelling, punctuation, and grammar reflect poorly upon you. There are certain words that are central to a subject and your inability to spell them correctly is the equivalent to functional illiteracy. If you were applying to a professional grade civil service position and spelled government "goverment" or applied for a foreign service position and spelled it :foriegn," your application would likely not be well-received.
6. Be courteous and considerate. It is important to be honest and to express yourself freely, but being considerate of others is just as important and expected online, as it is in the classroom.
7. Avoid posting large blocks of text. If you must, break them into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.

Note: Review the Netiquette, Viruses and Technical Resources sections below.

Netiquette

"Netiquette" has evolved to aid us in infusing our electronic communications with some of these missing behavioral pieces. "Emoticons" and other tools have become popular and I encourage their use when it will add to the clarity of your communication.

:-)
happy, pleased
:-(
sad, displeased
:-O
surprised
>:-|
angry

Abbreviate when possible. Examples:

LOL
laugh out loud, "I find this funny"
ROFL
rolling on floor laughing, really funny
BTW
by the way
grin
smiling
IMHO
in my humble opinion
FYI
for your info
Flame
antagonistic criticism

Netiquette continues to evolve and I am sure that we will have constant additions to this growing language. The important thing to remember is that all of the "cute" symbols in the world cannot replace your careful choice of words and "tone" in your communication.

You can learn more about Netiquette and electronic communication by visiting Learning Online.

Viruses

A virus can spell disaster. Your use of a reputable anti-virus program is a requirement for participation in this course (good ones include Avira, McAfee or Norton). In addition, do not use obscure software programs, stripped versions of Microsoft Word for mini-computers, or a computer where you work (if they allow you to do coursework on their nickel) if it is not Microsoft Word. There are too many students in the course for me to have to take time to track down and convert other software products. If I cannot open it, it is the equivalent of having not been submitted. That is why you must use the word processing software that you will use to submit Assignments during the Course for the Module 0 Assignment to test and make sure it works.

Also, back up your files: "My hard drive crashed." "My modem doesn't work." "My printer is out of ink." These are today's equivalents of "My dog ate my homework." And these events really do occur and they are really inconvenient when they do. However, these are not valid excuses for failing to get your work in on time. Give yourself plenty of lead time to anticipate such speed bumps. Waiting until the eleventh hour to do a Quiz or an Assignment is courting disaster and late is late, whether it is 1 second or 1 minute. When the clock runs out and the window closes, it is closed. Period.

Technical Resources

For specific problems, go to Technical Support.