INR 4401
INTERNATIONAL LAW

Dr. Robert L. Bledsoe
11:30-12:20MWF
CB1-319
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OFFICE: Phillips Hall 102"B"
HOURS: 9:00-10:00;1:00-3:00MWF

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Course Objectives.** This one semester course on international law is designed to:
   (1) introduce you to the nature and sources of international law; how that law developed; and how it relates to municipal law;
   (2) gain an understanding of the role of law and international organizations in aiding both stability and peaceful change in the international system;
   (3) familiarize you with the legal principles which create the subjects of international law and govern their succession or demise;
   (4) examine the rights and duties of the subjects of international law;
   (5) suggest how individuals fit into the scheme of things;
   (6) introduce you to the legal principles, customs, and norms which govern national jurisdiction over spatial domain and problems in extraterritorial jurisdiction;
   (7) introduce you to the legal principles, customs, and norms which govern nations during the course of their international transactions through diplomacy and treaties;
   (8) 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;
   (9) gain insight into how international law has been instrumental in improving both the human and global environment.

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.

2. **Course Requirements.** The course will consist of a series of lectures focusing upon the topics and issues outlined in Section 5. You are encouraged to ask questions, inject personal observations, and challenge the assertions of the professor. Attend all class meetings. While no formal record of attendance is kept, you will find that failure to attend class will soon be reflected in your course performance, as lecture material will often not be found in your reading assignments. **Read** and **master** the material in the assignments. These are found in the sole textbook for the course:

> Gerhard von Glahn and James Larry Taulbee, *Law Among Nations: An Introduction to Public International Law.* 11th ed. Routledge. 2017.

Reading the assignments and keeping up with the lectures is your responsibility. No specific pages of reading will be given from one lecture to another. Pace yourself according to the topics under consideration during lecture periods.

In addition, there may be select videos to review.

We have a site on Webcourses@ucf.edu and you have an initial assignment to complete there, so log in and review. All grades will be posted there as well as announcements, updates, links to other materials, etc.

Case Brief. During the course, you will present a case brief to the class. Cases will be assigned in advance of the class period during which they will be presented. It is important that you are in class to present your brief, as they serve to illustrate major points made during the lecture and do the class no good if they are tardy. No make-up briefs will be assigned for those who are absent or not prepared when they are called upon to present their assigned case. A sample brief has been provided to you on our Announcements page in Webcourses so you can see what one looks like. The goal is to limit it to less than one page. Once presented, your **typed** brief is to be entered in Assignments on our course web page for grading. All students should keep track of the point of law when a case is being read to the class, as the briefs will not be available to students later on since students keep stealing the folder and thus it is not available for others in the class. A briefing cases tutorial can be found at https://www.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/how-to/brief-a-case.

3. **Examinations.** There will be four examinations during the course. All will consist of short answer questions dealing with legal concepts, principles, points of law, hypothetical situations, themes, and case identification and briefing. The final examination is **not cumulative.** Each exam will cover that portion of the material outlined in Section 5. Exams are scheduled as follows and will be held at the normal class time and meeting place:

(1) **Monday, September 20**
(2) **Wednesday, October 13**
(3) **Monday, November 8**

The final examination will be held at the normal class meeting place from **10-12:50, Wednesday Dec. 8.** Please provide me with four (4) examination booklets ("blue books" or "green books") at your earliest convenience. They can be purchased at the Bookstore and will be used to write your answers on exam days. Please make sure they are not crumbled, stained, etc. Would you want to take an exam in one of them in that condition? **Attendance at examinations is mandatory. There are no makeup examinations save in cases of dire medical emergencies (documentation required)[going to the UCF Health Center with a headache is not a dire medical emergency]. In addition, after the first person has turned in their exam and left the room, no one who is tardy and arrives after that time will be allowed to take the exam. They will have missed the test.** All exams will be in pen (not pencil). Once an exam has begun, no one is allowed to leave the classroom for any reason (so be prepared ahead of time to remain for from 50 minutes to three hours when exams begin – perhaps limit your coffee or other liquids intake before coming for the exam?).

4. **Grades.** There are five possible grades for the course:

Exams	(4 x 30%)	= 120%
Case Brief		= 10%

Each student must have **three** exam grades to equal 90% of the course. (All students must do the briefing exercise.) This can be the highest three grades of the four examinations (plus the case brief); or three examinations (plus the case brief) and skipping an exam, including the final. Be very careful how you decide upon your options, as there are **no makeup exams** (either midterms or final – except as noted above). If you miss a test, you have dropped your lowest grade already. In no case is it wise

to miss the first examination. Make your vacation plans for **after** finals week.

Letter grades: 90-100 = A (NOTE: there will be no +/- grades)
80-89 = B
70-79 = C
60-69 = D
< 60 = F

5. **Assignments**. (Chapters in von Glahn/Taulbee)

I.	NATURE, DEVELOPMENT, AND SOURCES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW	Chptrs.1-3
II.	TREATIES	Chptr. 4
III.	PACIFIC SETTLEMENT	Chptr. 5
IV.	MUNICIPAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL LAW	Chptr. 6

---First midterm (Monday, September 20)---

V.	SUBJECTS OF LAW/RECOGNITION	Chptr. 7
VI.	RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES/SUCCESSION	Chptr. 8
VII.	NATIONALITY	Chptr. 9
VIII.	BASES OF JURISDICTION	Chptr. 10

---Second midterm (Wednesday, October 13)---
Note: Withdrawal deadline is Friday, October 29

IX.	STATE RESPONSIBILITY	Chptr. 11
X.	JURISDICTIONAL REGIMES	Chptrs.12-13
XI.	DIPLOMACY	Chptr. 14

---Third midterm (Monday, November 8)---

XII.	INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW	Chptr. 16
XIII	ENVIRONMENTAL LAW	Chptr. 18
XIV.	FORCE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW	Chptrs.19
	(pp.506-522&534-537)	20-22

---Final exam (Wednesday, December 8)---

WELCOME TO INTERNATIONAL LAW AND MAY YOU HAVE A SUCCESSFUL FALL SEMESTER

Note: The School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs has computer labs open to majors. There are posted open lab times in HPH 310 and the computers in HPH 312 are available M-F from 8:00am-5:00pm.

Announcement Attachments: Guide to Finding and Briefing Cases
Sample of Case Brief
Glossary of Legal Terms

Some ground rules:

(1) Classroom

no food or drinks (except water)
no smoking
use of laptops or tape recorders is ok but turn off beepers, pagers, cell phones, etc.
if you are late, please come anyway but try not to be disruptive when entering the room
if you test positive for COVID, call the UCF COVID Line at 407-823-2509 and they will notify me and we can address the issue

(2) Communications

feel free to email me:
office - robert.bledsoe@ucf.edu
on our web site
call me at the office but not at home
Main Campus(407-823-2608)
see me during office hours or call for appointment

(3) Exams

if you are late on exam day and a student has already turned in their exam and departed before you arrive, you are too late and I will not let you take the exam
final grades are not given out over the telephone nor by the Department staff. All your grades during the course are available through our Webcourse site. If you want any course materials returned, provide me ahead of time a stamped, addressed envelop

NOTE: Syllabus is subject to change during the semester at the discretion of the Instructor

For those of you that are interested in the law and/or thinking about law school, an informative introduction to the historical evolution of law, codes, courts, and why we have particular statutes (heavily focused on the United States), in your "spare" time read Michael Roffer's *The Law Book: From Hammurabi to the International Criminal Court, 200 Milestones in the History of Law*

And our School web page has lots of pre-law resources (a *Student Pre-Law Handbook*; webinars on finances, the LSAT, careers, etc.; 4-year and senior year checklists on things to do; and we have 5 pre-law advisers at your service – myself included)