

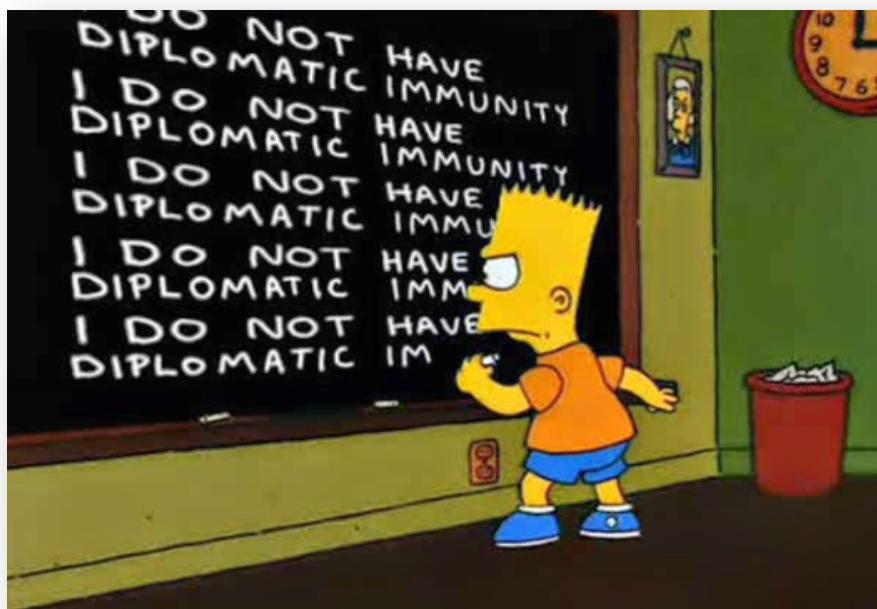
Introduction to INTERNATIONAL LAW

POLS/HRTS-3418

T/Th 12:30-1:45

BUSN 127

Professor: Dr. David L. Richards (david.richards@uconn.edu)
Office: Zoom (link automatically provided upon scheduling)
Office Hours: Mondays: 9:00am-12:00pm
[Click Here to Book Time With Me](#)



This course will introduce students to the basic legal concepts and principles governing state behavior in the international order; the nature and sources of international law; international agreements; state sovereignty; and the recognition of statehood, jurisdiction, immunities, and responsibility.

Upon completion of this course students should have achieved the following learning goals: An understanding of the influences on the development of international law and their significance over time; an understanding of the evolution and structure of the international legal system; the ability to analyze international agreements and an awareness of their role in the development of international law; an awareness of the economic, political, social, and strategic implications of state sovereignty; and the development of an understanding of contemporary international events utilizing international law as a lens of perception.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Klabbers, Jan. 2021. *International Law, 3rd ed.* Cambridge University Press.

GRADED COMPONENTS:

1. **Exams (33% @):** You will take two exams that will test your knowledge of important terms and concepts as well as your ability to use these to think about international law issues/cases.
2. **Role-Playing Treaty Simulation (34%):** You will take part in a role-playing simulation of the negotiation of a new international treaty. This simulation will take place during the latter part of the semester, after you've learned a good deal of necessary foundational material. A handbook detailing the simulation's instructions will be distributed beforehand. For this assignment, you will be randomly assigned to groups, each of which will represent a fictional country.

IMPORTANT: You must be present and in class during simulation days to receive a grade for this component of your overall course grade. *There is no possible make-up or alternative assignment.*

Your grade for the role-playing simulation will be based on the following two components:

A. Final Treaty (50%):

- I. After the simulation's conclusion, and before **12:30pm on 12/12/23**, the recorder will send me a typed copy of the final treaty, containing all language, including an appendix (Appendix A) containing the signature status of each country, and an appendix (Appendix B) containing reservations as well as any objections and/or withdrawals related to those reservations.
- II. The treaty must be formatted and worded in accordance with treaty style. You can find examples in the UN Treaty Collection:
https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ParticipationStatus.aspx?clang=_en Find a treaty and copy its style.
- III. Each person in the class will receive the same grade for the final treaty [UNLESS they did not participate on a level equal to that of their peers and thus will receive a significantly lower grade, as a result].

B. Group Report (50%):

- I. After the simulation's conclusion, and before **12:30pm on 12/12/23**, each *country* (not each person) will submit a five-full-page typed report on that group's involvement in the simulation. A style guide will be distributed.
- II. Your group's report must include:
 - a) A discussion of how the group's *a priori* treaty preferences [i.e. what it decided (before negotiations) it wanted to get out of the treaty] were or were not ultimately reflected in the final treaty, and why.
 - Put differently, did your country get what it wanted? Why and/or why not? Explain and describe fully.
 - b) A discussion of what multilateral and bilateral deals were made or not made, how/why, and how these affected the content and/or passage of the treaty.
 - c) An appendix containing the texts of any bilateral or multilateral treaties made in addition to the main treaty.
- III. Each person participating in a group will receive the same grade for their group's report [UNLESS they did not participate on a level equal to that of their peers and thus will receive a significantly lower grade, as a result].

SEMESTER SCHEDULE / READINGS

Below is the approximate outline of our activities this semester. What is most important is that what we cover sticks; not so much that we stick to what the syllabus says we cover.

Accessing Materials

1. Chapters & pages referenced below refer to the Klabbers textbook, 3rd edition.
2. The full text of the treaties, resolutions, cases, etc. we'll be referencing this semester can be found in the "Treaties Etc" online folder in Course Materials on Husky CT.
 - During lecture: rather than copying treaty text from slides, you can simply note the location of the article/paragraph we are studying and look up the text later. This will allow your focus during class to be on the importance/relevance of this language, as opposed to copying.
3. Non-textbook readings without a URL in the schedule below can be obtained in the "Other Readings" folder in Course Content on Husky CT.
4. The Treaty Simulation guidelines will be both sent to you via email, and made available via the "Simulation Materials" folder in Course Content on Husky CT.

WEEK ONE: Getting Started

8/29-8/31

I will be away on business this week. In my absence, please:

- (A) Read this syllabus carefully and email me any questions you have about it.
- (B) Do the readings below:
 - Chpt 1: The Setting of IL
 - American Society of International Law. 2018. "International Law: 100 Ways It Shapes Our Lives" <https://www.asil.org/sites/default/files/100Ways/100Ways.pdf>

WEEK TWO: What is IL? Where does it Come From?

9/5-9/7

Chpt 2: The Making of IL

Sengupta, Somini. "Can Nations Be Sued for Weak Climate Action? We'll Soon Get an Answer." March 2, 2023. *The New York Times* <https://shorturl.at/ajuCX>

WEEK THREE: What is IL? Where does it Come From?

9/12-9/14

Chpt 16: Domestic Courts and their Relationship with IL

WEEK FOUR: What is a "state"? What immunity do states and leaders have?

9/19-9/21

Chpt 4: The Subjects of IL

Chpt 7: The Law of Responsibility

Chpt 5: Jurisdiction, Powers, and Immunities (Pages 112-115)

Simons, Marlise and Anushka Patil. "The International Criminal Court issues an arrest warrant for Putin." March 17, 2023. *The New York Times*

<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2023/03/17/world/russia-ukraine-putin-news/the-international-criminal-court-issues-an-arrest-warrant-for-putin?smid=url-share>

WEEK FIVE: International legal personality: Who has it? How much?**9/26-9/28**

Chpt 5: Jurisdiction, Powers, and Immunities (Pages 109-111)

Chpt 8: International Courts and Tribunals

WEEK SIX: International legal personality: Who has it? How much?**10/3-10/5**

Chpt 6: The Individual in International Law, Including Human Rights

Optional (for those really interested): Goodman, Ryan and Derek Jinks. 2004. "How to Influence States: Socialization and International Human Rights Law" *Duke Law Journal* 54(3): 621-703.WEEK SEVEN: Jurisdiction**10/10-10/12**

Chpt 5: Jurisdiction, Powers, and Immunities (Pages 100-109)

Chpt 12: International Criminal Law

WEEK EIGHT: Jurisdiction**10/17-10/19**

Chpt 13: The Seas, the Air, and Outer Space

Miller, Michael E. and Matthew Abbott. "China hoped Fiji would be a template for the Pacific. Its plan backfired." August 21, 2023. *The Washington Post* <https://wapo.st/45fq8fV>WEEK NINE Exam & Treaties**10/24-10/26****Tuesday 10/24: Exam #1**Thursday: Chpt 3: The Law of TreatiesWEEK TEN Treaties**10/31-11/2**Room for Debate. 2012. "Have Treaties Gone Out of Style?" *The New York Times*<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2012/12/06/have-treaties-gone-out-of-style/the-senates-failure-to-ratify-the-un-disability-treaty-is-a-shame>WEEK ELEVEN Use of Force**11/7-11/9**Tuesday 11/7: Chpt 11: The Law of Armed Conflict**Thursday 11/9: I will be away on business on, so there will be no class that day. Please read the following:**

- Walt, Stephen M. 2017. "There's Still No Reason to Think the Kellogg-Briand Pact Accomplished Anything" *Foreign Policy* September 29.
- Hathaway, Oona, and Scott Shapiro. 2017. "What Realists Don't Understand About International Law" *Foreign Policy* October 9.

WEEK TWELVE Use of Force**11/14-11/16**

Chpt 17: The Politics and Ethics of International Law and Global Governance

Parker, Claire. "A growing movement against illegal war." July 5, 2022. *The Washington Post* <https://wapo.st/3ON3AvO>**Thursday 11/16: Distribution of Exam #2 (Take-Home) at End of Class**WEEK THIRTEEN**11/21-11/23****Thanksgiving Break**WEEK FOURTEEN Treaty Simulation**11/28-11/30****Tuesday 11/28: Exam #2 Due via HuskyCT turned-in by 12:30pm**WEEK FIFTEEN Treaty Simulation**12/5 – 12/7**WEEK SIXTEEN**Tuesday 12/12: Treaty Simulation Materials Due by 12:30pm**

CLASS RULES:**Notes/Photos/Videos/Sound Recording, Etc.**

1. You do not have permission to photograph or video/audio record *any* sounds or images from or during class; on any device, at any time unless expressly authorized by the instructor.
 - a. For example:
 - i. Capturing still images of lecture slides, the instructor, class guests, or students is prohibited.
 - ii. Capturing audio of lecture slides, the instructor, class guests, or students is prohibited.
 - iii. Capturing video of lecture slides, the instructor, class guests, or students is prohibited.
2. You do not have permission to make publicly available any class notes or materials – complete, partial, or summarized -- for paid or unpaid access by any other persons via any forum and/or via any medium unless expressly authorized by the instructor.

Any and all violations of the above will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

Lateness

Habitual lateness to class is unprofessional and disrespectful to other students and to the professor. Habitual lateness to class is disruptive and will be handled as such.

Phones / Other Electronic Devices:

- **Use of earbuds/earphones during class is strictly prohibited.**
- Turn off the ringer of your phone/electronic devices BEFORE class begins. You will not be in trouble for a single accident of forgetting to turn off your phone and having it ring in class -- once in a while, everyone (*including the professor*) forgets to turn off his/her phone. So, if your phone rings in class, *please have the decency to turn it off and not let it ring* and ring until the caller hangs up or voicemail kicks in.
- Chronic cases of disruption via electronic devices will be referred to the Office of Student Services & Advocacy.
- You MAY use a laptop/tablet, etc during lectures.
 - If the professor sees that too much laptop activity is being devoted to non-course activities (e.g., social media, etc), permission to use laptops/tablets/etc. will be revoked.
- **NO electronic devices of any kind are to be *powered up or on* during an exam/quiz.** Violation of this rule will result in a zero on the exam/quiz.
- **NO electronic devices of any kind are to be *visible* during an exam/quiz.** Violation of this rule will result in a zero on the exam/quiz.
- If you are caught using *any* kind of electronic device during an exam, you will automatically receive a zero on the exam.

E-Mail:

You are responsible for checking your UCONN-registered e-mail every day, especially before classes and exams. Notices, important dates, reading changes, and the like will be announced via e-mail.

Makeup Exams:

Makeup exams present *severe* equity problems for everyone involved in the course. Makeup exams will ONLY be scheduled for those with DOCUMENTED medical, University-sanctioned required activity, or direct family member's death- associated excuses.

There are NO exceptions to the makeup exam rule. For example, exams missed because of vacation, weddings, oversleeping, sickness not bad enough to get a doctor's excuse, etc., cannot be made up.

Excused Absences:

Excused absences are limited to absences where there is a documented medical excuse for that/those date(s) missed, a University-sanctioned event directly affecting the student, or the documented death of an immediate family member. Examples of things that do not count as excused are job interviews, weddings, work-related conflicts, and vacations.

Late Penalty

Late penalties begin accruing immediately after I have collected work from all those in attendance at the beginning of class, rounded up to the hour, at a penalty of 2 points per hour.

Academic Integrity

In this course we aim to conduct ourselves as a community of scholars, recognizing that academic study is both an intellectual and ethical enterprise. You are encouraged to build on the ideas and texts of others; that is a vital part of academic life. You are also obligated to document every occasion when you use another's ideas, language, or syntax. You are encouraged to study together, discuss readings outside of class, share your drafts during peer review and outside of class, and go to the Writing Center with your drafts. In this course, those activities are well within the bounds of academic honesty. However, when you use another's ideas or language—whether through direct quotation, summary, or paraphrase—you must formally acknowledge that debt by signaling it with a standard form of academic citation. Even one occasion of academic dishonesty, large or small, on *any* assignment, large or small, will result in failure for the entire course and referral to Student Judicial Affairs. For University policies on academic honesty, please see UConn's *Responsibilities of Community Life: The Student Code* and the Office of Community Standards: <http://www.community.uconn.edu>

Students With Disabilities

Please contact me during office hours to discuss academic accommodations that may be needed during the semester due to a documented disability. The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) engages in an interactive process with each student and reviews requests for accommodations on an individualized, case-by-case basis. Depending on the nature and functional limitations of a student's documented disability, he/she may be eligible for academic accommodations. CSD collaborates with students and their faculty to coordinate approved accommodations and services for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability for which you wish to request academic accommodations and have not contacted the CSD, please do so as soon as possible. The CSD is located in Wilbur Cross, Room 204 and can be reached at (860) 486-2020 or at csd@uconn.edu . Detailed information regarding the process to request accommodations is available on the CSD website at www.csd.uconn.edu.

Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships

The University is committed to maintaining an environment free of discrimination or discriminatory harassment directed toward any person or group within its community – students, employees, or visitors. Academic and professional excellence can flourish only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of an academic and work environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination or discriminatory harassment. In addition, inappropriate Romantic relationships can undermine the University's mission when those in positions of authority abuse or appear to abuse their authority. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination and discriminatory harassment, as well as inappropriate Romantic relationships, and such behavior will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University. More information is available at <http://policy.uconn.edu/?p=2884> .

Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

To protect the campus community, all non-confidential University employees (including faculty) are required to report assaults they witness or are told about to the Office of Diversity & Equity under the Sexual Assault Response Policy. The University takes all reports with the utmost seriousness. Please be aware that while the information you provide will remain private, it will not be confidential and will be shared with University officials who can help. More information is available at <http://sexualviolence.uconn.edu/> .