

**Political Science 122:
International Law
TWR 12:10-1:50pm
Young 184**

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The Course

The primary purpose of this course is to develop the student's ability to understand and analyze international law. The first part of the course introduces students to the structural elements of international law, the second part of the course will look at specialized areas of international law, and the last part of the class will consist of debates on the specialized areas of international law.

Lecture

You are responsible for all information given during lecture even if it is not on the slides. If you are unable to attend class please confirm with the TA or instructor if any information was given.

Section

Sections will primarily consist of debate preparation. Part of your debate grade will come from showing up for the relevant meetings with your group.

Reading

This course has a large amount of reading required for each lecture – anywhere from 50-75 pages. However, there is no reading after the midterm in Week 4.

Murphy, Sean D. 2012. *Principles of International Law, Second Edition*. St. Paul, Minnesota: West.

The book is referred to as Murphy in the course schedule below.

Grading

Everyone wants/needs a particular grade for a number of reasons; however, grades cannot be magically changed at the end of the quarter. If you need a particular grade for any reason, e.g. prevent academic probation, top 10 law school hopes, prevent dismissal from the university, prevent dismissal from the university and being deported, get off academic probation, you should talk to me or the TA early and often. All of these reasons have been used in previous courses when no changes were possible.

Grades will be computed on the following distribution of points out of 1000 points:

Section Participation 10% 100 pts.

Debate Attendance 10% 100 pts.

Midterm Exam 20% 200 pts.

Research Paper 15% 150 pts.

Debate 15% 150 pts.

Final Exam 30% 300 pts.

If you wish to dispute the grading of any assignment or exam please submit a formal 250-500 word explanation of why you believe you deserve more points to the TA, I will not examine any assignments until the TA has had the opportunity to justify the grading. Including citations and page numbers showing that your answer deserves more credit will help your case. Disputes are allowed for only ONE week after the assignment is returned to the class, regardless of when you pick it up from the TA (an exemption is a doctor's note stating you could not attend lecture). **THE ENTIRE ASSIGNMENT WILL BE RE-GRADED, YOUR GRADE MAY GO UP, DOWN, OR REMAIN THE SAME.** Also, paper and assignment grades do not begin at 100% and go down, all assignments/answers begin at a 75% and move up or down from that point. Thus, asking the TA why you received a 97% instead of 100% will result in an answer of it is not perfect. 100% is perfect.

There are no makeup exams for this course. Students missing a exam for a good reason (e.g. illness with a doctors note **specifically** stating you were too ill to take an exam that day, military service, and incarceration; these have all been used in the past) without prior permission will have their grade prorated from the next exam's score (the score on the final will also be applied to the midterm and so on).

Final exams will not be given early.

Course Outline and Reading

Section 1: No Class

Week 1 Day 1: Foundations and Actors of International Law
Murphy Ch. 1, 2 (pg. 3-75)

Week 1 Day 2: International Law Creation
Murphy Ch. 3 (pg. 77-124)

Week 1 Day 3: International Law Interpretation and Dispute Resolution
Murphy Ch. 4 (pg. 125-171)

Section 2: Division of Topics for Debate

Week 2 Day 1: International Law Compliance and Enforcement
Murphy Ch. 5, 6 (pg. 173-220)

Week 2 Day 2: Human Rights/International Criminal Law
Murphy Ch. 10 (pg. 333-382), Ch. 13 (pg. 453-490)

Week 2 Day 3: Debate Prep Lecture

Section 3: Preparation for Sides/Negotiation of Question

Week 3 Day 1: Law of the Sea
Murphy Ch. 11 (383-414)

Week 3 Day 2: International Environmental Law
Murphy Ch. 12 (415-447)

Week 3 Day 3: Use of Armed Force
Murphy Ch. 14 (491-537)

Section 4: Midterm Review, Human Rights and Law of Sea Group Meeting

Week 4 Day 1: Arms Control and Arms Trade Treaty
Arms Trade Treaty, <http://www.un.org/disarmament/ATT>

Week 4 Day 2: Midterm

Week 4 Day 3: Human Rights/International Criminal Law Debate

Section 5: Environment, Armed Force, and Arms Control Group Meetings

Week 5 Day 1: Law of Sea Debate

Week 5 Day 2: Environmental Law Debate

Week 5 Day 3: Use of Armed Force Debate

Section 6: Arms Control Debate

Week 6 Day 1: Review Session

Week 6 Day 2: NO CLASS – Study

Week 6 Day 3: Final Exam

Research Paper

The research paper for this course is due the date of your debate. The one exception is the human rights debate due to the closeness to the midterm, whose paper will be due on Week 5 Day 1.

The subject of the paper is a normative question on your debate subject, which you will argue for in the paper using the course material and outside research. It does not have to be the specific question for your groups in-class debate, but the in-class debate question will most likely be one of your colleagues' or your own question.

The paper should include an introduction with an argument, a section describing your argument's causal process, a section where you review and analyze evidence that supports your argument, a short section where you explore an alternative argument/explanation, and a conclusion. Each section should have its own heading and each paragraph should have its own subject.

The length of the paper should 5-7 pages with 1" margins and a 12-point font. Failure to follow formatting directions will result in a 10% penalty.

All sources must be cited in a standard format including author, year, title, publication, publisher that includes page numbers when applicable, including the textbook. The lack of in-text citations will be 10% off automatically and the failure to provide a works cited page will be an additional 10% off automatically.

You will be graded on application of theory, argument, and style of writing.