

# Introduction to INTERNATIONAL LAW

POLS/HRTS-3418

M/W/F 1:25pm – 2:15pm

Family Studies Building 103

**Professor:** Dr. David L. Richards  
**Office:** Oak Hall 448  
**Office Hours:** Mondays/Wednesdays: 2:30pm-4:00pm. Appointments are available in 15-minute increments and are to be made in advance via ADVAPP (<http://www.advapp.uconn.edu/>), where I am listed under Political Science. *If you are coming in with an issue that you feel is going to take a while to discuss, please book two consecutive appointments.*  
**Email:** [david.richards@uconn.edu](mailto:david.richards@uconn.edu)  
**T.A.:** Ms. Imge Akaslan ([imge.akaslan@uconn.edu](mailto:imge.akaslan@uconn.edu)); Office: Oak 437  
 Office Hours: Mon 10:00am-11:00am; Fri 9:00am-11:00am

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. Current international events will be examined from an international law perspective. Particularly, we will be spending time on the subject of human rights / humanitarian law, although this is not a course on human rights or humanitarian law, *per se*.

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. 2017. *International Law*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Cambridge University Press.

## SOME BLOGS ON WHICH TO KEEP AN EYE (listed in no particular order):

- *Insights:* <https://www.asil.org/insights>
- *International Judicial Monitor:* <http://www.judicialmonitor.org>
- *Opinio Juris:* <http://opiniojuris.org>
- *Human Rights & International Criminal Law Forum:* <http://iccforum.com>
- *Harvard International Law Journal* <http://www.harvardilj.org/>
- *Human Rights At Home (Law Professors' Blog Network)*  
[http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/human\\_rights/](http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/human_rights/)

**GRADED COMPONENTS:**

1. **Exams (Two @ 35% each):** You will take two exams, each worth thirty-five percent of your overall grade for the course. These exams will test your knowledge of important terms and concepts by testing your ability *to use them to think critically* about international law issues/cases.
  
2. **Treaty Simulation (30%):** You will take part in a 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 in class during simulation days to participate in this activity and, consequently, receive a grade for this component of your overall course grade. These days are set in stone on our schedule. There is no possible make-up or alternative assignment outside of cases of documented illness or University-mandated travel lasting the full duration of the simulation.***

Your grade for this project will be the result of the following two components:

- A. **Treaty (50%):** The recorder will send me a typed copy of the final treaty, containing all language; including reservations, understandings, and declarations. Each person in the class participating in the simulation will get the same grade for this component.
- B. **Group Report (50%):** Each group will submit to me, following the simulation's conclusion, a five-page typed report on that group's involvement in the simulation. For example, you will want to discuss how your group's *a priori* treaty preferences (set to some extent by information I will be giving you in the handbook about your country) were or were not ultimately reflected in the final treaty, and why. What deals were made or not made? And so forth... Each person participating in a group will receive the same grade for this component, with the exception of those who clearly did not participate on a level equal to that of their peers and who 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 to me is that what we cover sticks, not so much that we stick to what the syllabus says we cover.*

### Accessing Materials

1. I have placed the full text of the treaties, resolutions, cases, etc. we'll be learning about in the "Treaties Etc" online folder at: <http://tinyurl.com/pols3418> This way, 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, allowing you to focus in class instead on the importance/relevance of this language.
2. Readings marked "[OD]" in the schedule below can be obtained in the "Articles" folder at <http://tinyurl.com/pols3418>
3. The Treaty Simulation guidelines will be both sent to you via email, and also made available via the "Simulation" folder at: <http://tinyurl.com/pols3418>

### WEEK ONE

**1/17-1/19:**

Welcome

Chpt 1: The Setting of IL

Chpt 2: The Making of IL

### WEEK TWO

**1/22-1/26:**

Chpt 2: The Making of IL

Chpt 16: Domestic Courts and their Relationship with IL

Chpt 4: The Subjects of IL

### WEEK THREE

**1/29 – 2/2:**

Chpt 4: The Subjects of IL

- Lewis-Kraus, Gordon. 2015. "Welcome to Liberland, the World's Newest Country (Maybe)." *The New York Times* August 11.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/16/magazine/the-making-of-a-president.html>
- Taylor, Adam. 2017. "Liberland, a self-proclaimed country in Eastern Europe, hopes for recognition from Trump" *The Washington Post* January 22.  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/01/22/liberland-a-self-proclaimed-country-in-eastern-europe-hopes-for-recognition-from-president-trump>

### WEEK FOUR

**2/5 – 2/9:**

Chpt 5: Jurisdiction, Powers, and Immunities

Chpt 7: The Law of Responsibility

Chpt 12, pages 228-233

WEEK FIVE**2/12 – 2/14:**

Chpt 5: Jurisdiction, Powers, and Immunities

Chpt 7: The Law of Responsibility

Chpt 12, pages 248-253

Chpt 3: The Law of Treaties

**2/16:****No class.**WEEK SIX**2/19-2/23:**

Chpt 12, pages 248-253

Chpt 3: The Law of Treaties

WEEK SEVEN**2/26 – 3/2:**

Chpt 3: The Law of Treaties

WEEK EIGHT**3/5:**

Chpt 3: The Law of Treaties

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>**3/7:****EXAM #1****3/9:**

Chpt 10: Use of Force

Chpt 6: The Individual in IL (Human Rights)

Chpt 8: International Courts &amp; Tribunals

Chpt 11: The Law of Armed Conflict

Chpt 12, pages 237-248: International Criminal Law

WEEK NINE**3/12 – 3/16:****SPRING BREAK**

WEEK TEN**3/19 – 3/23:**

- Chpt 10: Use of Force
- Chpt 6: The Individual in IL (Human Rights)
- Chpt 8: International Courts & Tribunals
- Chpt 11: The Law of Armed Conflict
- Chpt 12, pages 237-248: International Criminal Law

WEEK ELEVEN**3/26 – 3/30:**

- Chpt 10: Use of Force
- Chpt 6: The Individual in IL (Human Rights)
- Chpt 8: International Courts & Tribunals
- Chpt 11: The Law of Armed Conflict
- Chpt 12, pages 237-248: International Criminal Law
- Walt, Stephen M. 2017. "There's Still No Reason to Think the Kellogg-Briand Pact Accomplished Anything" *Foreign Policy* September 29. [OD]
- Hathaway, Oona, and Scott Shapiro. 2017. "What Realists Don't Understand About International Law" *Foreign Policy* October 9. [OD]

WEEK TWELVE**4/2 – 4/6:**

- Chpt 10: Use of Force
- Chpt 6: The Individual in IL (Human Rights)
- Chpt 8: International Courts & Tribunals
- Chpt 11: The Law of Armed Conflict
- Chpt 12, pages 237-248: International Criminal Law
- Walt, Stephen M. 2017. "There's Still No Reason to Think the Kellogg-Briand Pact Accomplished Anything" *Foreign Policy* September 29. [OD]
- Hathaway, Oona, and Scott Shapiro. 2017. "What Realists Don't Understand About International Law" *Foreign Policy* October 9. [OD]

WEEK THIRTEEN**4/9 – 4/13:****Treaty Simulation**WEEK FOURTEEN**4/16 – 4/20:****Treaty Simulation**WEEK FIFTEEN**4/23:****Treaty Simulation, If Necessary / Makeup Content****4/25:****Treaty Simulation, If Necessary / Makeup Content / Exam Review****4/27:****TREATY SIMULATION MATERIALS DUE****EXAM #2**

## CLASS RULES:

### Notes/Photos/Videos/Sound Recording, Etc.

You do not have permission to record any sounds or images from or during class. 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. Any violations 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:

- 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.
- Use of earbuds/earphones is strictly prohibited.
- 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.

### Communicating & Making Appointments With Me

E-mail is the single-best way to reach me. *Be sure to use ADVAPP to make appointments.*

### 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 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](mailto:csd@uconn.edu). Detailed information regarding the process to request accommodations is available on the CSD website at [www.csd.uconn.edu](http://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/> .

### **GRADE CALCULATION:**

Your final grade will be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{FINAL GRADE} = [.35 (\text{Exam 1}) + .35 (\text{Exam 2}) + .30 (\text{Simulation})]$$

Final class grades will be assigned as such:

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	59 or below