PS123A: The Politics of International Law
Preliminary Course Syllabus--Subject to Change
Spring 2019

Professor Leslie Johns
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Teaching Assistants:
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LOCATION and TIME:
Perloff 1102
TR 9:30 – 10:45 am
Office hours for Prof. Johns: Wednesday at 10:00-11:30 am and by appt

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will blend legal and political science approaches to international law.
- We will survey the major principles, issue-areas, and institutions of international law, with a special focus on investment, trade, human rights, use of force, and criminal law.
- We will examine how politics affects the creation and development of international law, and the willingness of states to comply with and enforce law.
This is an upper-level course designed for juniors and seniors.

ASSIGNMENTS and GRADING
Your grade in this course is based on the following:

Participation: 15%
Attendance at lectures, active participation in discussion sections, and demonstrated preparation and understanding of readings.

Quizzes: 15%
Short quizzes will be administered most weeks at the beginning of section meetings. These quizzes will consist of simple factual questions about the section readings. The
two lowest quiz grades will be automatically dropped. Make-up quizzes are not permitted: students who do not attend the section in which the quiz is administered will be given an automatic zero grade for that week’s quiz.

Midterm Exam (May 2): 30%

Final exam (June 12): 40%

There will be no make-up exams. If you miss an exam, you will receive a grade of zero. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

TEXTS

Required texts:

Casebook on the Politics of International Law --- available at the UCLA Bookstore

A copy of the Casebook will be placed on reserve in Powell College Library.

Other required readings:

These will be made available on the course web-site at:
https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/19S-POLSCI123A-1

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All UCLA students are bound by UCLA’s Student Conduct Code, which is available at: http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu. As required by UCLA procedures, any suspected or alleged misconduct---including plagiarism and cheating---will be automatically reported to the Dean of Students. If you have any questions or concerns about what constitutes plagiarism, you should consult with your TA, professor, or the Office of the Dean of Students.
TOPICS and READINGS

(T) = reading for Tuesday lecture
(R) = reading for Thursday lecture

Week 1

Readings: (T, Apr 2) No reading---overview of syllabus and class policies

(R, Apr 4) Neff, Stephen C. (2006) "A Short History of International Law"
Posted on class webpage.

Section: No reading or quiz--get to know your TA

Week 2

Readings: (T, Apr 9) "Making International Law: Treaties"

(R, Apr 11) "Making International Law: Treaties"

Section: Casebook: Whaling in the Antarctic

Week 3

Readings: (T, Apr 16) "Making International Law: Customary International Law"

(R, Apr 18) "Making International Law: Customary International Law"

Section: Casebook: North Sea

Week 4

Readings: (T, Apr 23) "Making International Law: Other Important Factors"

(R, Apr 25) "Breaking International Law"

Section: Casebook: Iran Hostages

Week 5

Readings: (T, Apr 30) "Breaking International Law"

(R, May 2) Midterm Exam

Midterm Exam: Thursday, May 2 in lecture
Section: No reading or meetings (TAs will be grading)

Week 6

Readings: (T, May 7) "Trade Law"

(R, May 9) "Trade Law" & TBD

Section: Casebook: US-Shrimp

Week 7


Section: Casebook: Manifesting Religion

Week 8

Readings: (T, May 21) “Use of Force”

(R, May 23) “Use of Force”

Section: Casebook: Oil Platforms

Week 9

Readings: (T, May 28) “Use of Force”


Section: Entebbe -- Posted on class webpage.

Week 10

Readings: (T, June 4) Shaw, Malcolm N. (2017) "Individual Criminal Responsibility in International Law" Posted on class webpage.
(R, June 6) Casebook: *Universal Jurisdiction and Criminal Immunity*

Section: Casebook: *Prosecute or Extradite*

**Final Exam: Wednesday, June 12 @ 3:00 – 6:00 pm**