PS123A: The Politics of International Law  
Preliminary Course Syllabus  
Winter 2020

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Bunche Hall, office #3381

Teaching Assistants:  
TBD

LOCATION and TIME:  

Haines 220  
TR 9:30 – 10:45 am  
Office hours for Prof. Johns: Wednesdays at 9:30--11:00 am

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 (February 6): 30%

Final exam (March 16): 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:

Textbook: “The Politics of International Law” --- available at the UCLA Bookstore as a Course Reader

Supplemental Casebook for “The Politics of International Law” --- available at the UCLA Bookstore as a Course Reader

A copy of both texts 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/20W-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, Jan 7) No reading---overview of syllabus and class policies

(R, Jan 9) Neff, Stephen C. (2006) "A Short History of International Law"

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

Week 2

Readings: (T, Jan 14) "Making International Law: Customary International Law"

(R, Jan 16) "Making International Law: Customary International Law"

Section: Casebook: *North Sea* (Quiz 1)

Week 3

Readings: (T, Jan 21) "Making International Law: Treaties"

(R, Jan 23) "Making International Law: Other Important Factors"

Section: Casebook: *Nuclear Tests* (Quiz 2)

Week 4

Readings: (T, Jan 28) "Breaking International Law"

(R, Jan 30) "Breaking International Law"

Section: Casebook: *Iran Hostages* (Quiz 3)

Week 5

Readings: (T, Feb 4) Review and/or Overflow Session

(R, Feb 6) Midterm Exam
Section: No reading or meetings (TAs will be grading)

Week 6
Readings: (T, Feb 11) "Human Rights"—Reading TBD
(R, Feb 13) "Human Rights" —Reading TBD

Section: Casebook: Manifesting Religion (Quiz 4)

Week 7
Readings: (T, Feb 18) "Use of Force: Prohibiting Force and UN Security Council Authorization"
(R, Feb 20) "Use of Force: Self-Defense"

Section: Casebook: Nicaragua (Quiz 5)

Week 8
Readings: (T, Feb 25) "Use of Force: Other Justifications?"
(R, Feb 27) “Armed Conflict: Regulating Armed Conflict and Protected People”

Section: Casebook: Nuclear Weapons (Quiz 6)

Week 9
Readings: (T, Mar 3) “Armed Conflict: Military Conduct”
(R, Mar 5) “Armed Conflict: Non-International Armed Conflict”

Section: Casebook: Armed Activities (Quiz 7)

Week 10

Midterm Exam: Thursday, February 6 in lecture
Readings:  (T, Mar 10) “Criminal Law” — Reading TBD
 (R, Mar 12) “Criminal Law” — Reading TBD

Section:  Casebook: *Prosecute or Extradite* (Quiz 8)

**Final Exam: Monday, March 16 at 8:00—11:00 am**