PS123A: The Politics of International Law
Course Syllabus – Online Edition
Spring 2020

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Teaching Assistants:

TBD

LOCATION and TIME:

This class will be asynchronous. You may complete the class using online resources at your own pace.

Deadlines listed throughout the syllabus are suggested to help keep you on pace.

Office hours will be on Zoom via appointment to accommodate the needs of students located in diverse time zones. If you would like a Zoom appointment with your TA or the professor, please send us an email noting a few days/times when you are available. We will do our best to respond to all emails within 48 hours.

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:

Worksheets: 50%

For each week’s section reading, a worksheet will be posted online. These worksheets will include both factual and conceptual questions about the assigned
Worksheets must be completed and submitted online through CCLE. (If you do not “submit” the worksheet, we cannot grade it.)

Unit Assessments: 50%

After each course unit, you will complete an online assignment to assess your knowledge of the topic. Assessments must be completed and submitted online through CCLE. (If you do not “submit” the assessment, we cannot grade it.)

To accommodate diverse student needs—including illness, accessibility challenges, and international locations—you may complete the worksheets and unit assessments at your own pace. All assignments are “open book”: you may consult course readings, video lectures, and your own notes. You may not work in groups or seek help on the assessments from other individuals.

The schedule below includes suggested due dates for each assessment. We encourage you to try to meet these deadlines so that you make steady progress over the quarter and so that grades can be submitted in a timely fashion.

All assignments must be submitted by Friday, December 18 at 5:00 pm (LA time).

TEXTS

Required texts:

Textbook: “Politics and International Law”

Casebook: “Politics and International Law”

Both items are available as electronic course readers through the online UCLA Textbook Store, which you can access through https://shop.uclastore.com/ or through the Study List in your MyUCLA account.

Please ensure that your course readers say: “UCLA—Fall 2020”. The course reader changes each quarter in response to changes in course content.

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.
SCHEDULE

• You may view class videos and complete assignments at your own pace.
• The professor and TAs will be available via email. If you require a Zoom meeting, these can be requested via email.

Unit 0: Introduction

Reading: Textbook—"Competing Perspectives on International Law and Politics”
Casebook—"El Requierimento”

Videos: 1: Meet Professor Johns and the Teaching Assistants
2: Syllabus Overview
3: Learning Techniques
4: Components of Legal Systems
5: Evolving Approaches to International Law
6: Case—El Requierimento

Worksheet 1 suggested deadline: end of week 1

No unit 0 assessment

Unit 1: Making International Law

Readings: Textbook—"Making International Law”
Casebook—"Whaling in the Antarctic", “North Sea”, and “Chagos Archipelago”

Videos: 1: Treaties—part 1
2: Treaties—part 2
3: Case: Whaling in the Antarctic

Worksheet 2 suggested deadline: end of week 2
4: Custom—part 1
5: Custom—part 2
6: Case: North Sea

Worksheet 3 suggested deadline: end of week 3
7: Other Important Factors—part 1
8: Other Important Factors—part 2
9: Case: Chagos Archipelago

Worksheet 4 suggested deadline: end of week 4

Unit 1 assessment suggested deadline: beginning of week 5

Unit 2: Breaking International Law

Readings: Textbook—"Breaking International Law”
Casebook—"Iran Hostages"

Videos:  1: Law of State Responsibility  
         2: Theories of Compliance  
         3: Case—"Iran Hostages"  

Worksheet 5 suggested deadline: end of week 5

Unit 2 assessment suggested deadline: beginning of week 6

Unit 3: Use of Force

Readings:  Textbook—"Use of Force"  
          Casebook—"Nicaragua"

Videos:  1: Prohibiting Force  
         2: UN Security Council and Self-Defense  
         3: Other Justifications?  
         4: Case—"Nicaragua"  

Worksheet 6 suggested deadline: end of week 6

Unit 3 assessment suggested deadline: beginning of week 7

Unit 4: Armed Conflict

Readings:  Textbook—"Armed Conflict"  
          Casebook—"Armed Activities" and “Nuclear Weapons”

Videos:  1: Regulating Armed Conflict  
         2: Protected People  
         3: Case—"Armed Activities"  

Worksheet 7 suggested deadline: end of week 7

4: Military Conduct  
5: Non-International Armed Conflicts  
6: Case—"Nuclear Weapons"  

Worksheet 8 suggested deadline: end of week 8

Unit 4 assessment suggested deadline: beginning of week 9

Unit 5: Human Rights

Readings:  Textbook—"Human Rights"  
          Casebook—"Manifesting Religion" and "Gunme"

Videos:  1: Defining Human Rights
2: Physical Integrity Rights
3: Case—Manifesting Religion
   **Worksheet 9 suggested deadline: end of week 9**
4: Civil and Political Rights
5: Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
6: Case—Gunme
   **Worksheet 10 suggested deadline: end of week 10**

Unit 5 assessment suggested deadline: beginning of exam week

All work must be submitted for grading by Friday, December 18 at 5:00 pm (LA time). There will be no extensions to this deadline.