

INTERNATIONAL LAW 558
PROFESSOR CINDY G. BUYS
Fall 2007

Meeting Place and Times: Room 206
Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:15 p.m.

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Office Hours: MW 9-11 am or by appointment

Course Description and Objectives:

This course introduces students to the field of international law. While international law originally was designed to govern interactions between sovereign nation-states, it now has evolved to operate on private individuals as well. In this course, we will: (1) learn the sources of international law and some of the fundamental or guiding principles of international law; (2) examine how international law is made, implemented and enforced; (3) consider the interaction of international law and U.S. law; (4) become familiar with some of the primary international organizations and non-governmental organizations; (5) study the impact of international law on individuals; and (6) consider how international disputes are resolved. In addition, towards the latter part of the course, we will briefly study a few specialty areas within international law, such as international human rights, trade law, the law of the sea, international criminal law, or the law of war. I will be seeking your input regarding which specialty areas you would like covered.

My goals in this course are to:

1. Teach you the importance of international law to everyone, even lawyers practicing in small communities like those in Southern Illinois;
2. Introduce you to the sources of international law, where to find them and how to use them to construct a legal argument;
3. Familiarize you with some of the primary international legal rules, processes and organizations existing today; and
4. Help you develop an understanding of some of the political or policy considerations that drive the development of international law (or lack thereof) and the behavior of nation-states.

One of the most interesting and exciting aspects of international law is that it is constantly growing and changing. For virtually every field of domestic law, there is a corresponding body of international law. While the study of international law can be challenging, I hope you will join me in viewing international law as an exciting practice area, which allows for a tremendous amount of creative lawyering.

Required Reading:

Most of the reading assignments for this course will be drawn from Janis & Noyes, *INTERNATIONAL LAW: CASES AND COMMENTARY* (West 3d ed. 2006) [hereinafter Janis]. Other reading assignments are on reserve in the library, will be distributed in class, posted on the class TWEN page, or photocopied for pick-up at the bookstore, depending upon their length. In addition, it is likely that I will ask you to find some materials on the Internet.

Some students also find Mark Janis, *AN INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL LAW* (Aspen 4th ed. 2003), to be helpful background reading. This book is not required. There are at least two copies on reserve in the library, so you do not need to buy this book even if you wish to consult it from time to time.

Class Attendance and Preparation:

You are expected to attend classes on a regular basis. If you miss more six (6) classes, you will be withdrawn from the course. Attendance will be taken daily. You are responsible for making sure you sign in each day and for keeping track of your absences. If you enter the room after the class has begun, you may not sign the attendance sheet. Your signature on the attendance sheet constitutes a representation that you have read the assigned material and are prepared to discuss it in an intelligent fashion. Being prepared also means that you have completed any written assignments. If I call on you and I judge that you are unprepared, I reserve the right to mark you as absent for that class.

If you are unprepared for class but would like to attend and receive the benefit of the class discussion: (1) do not sign the attendance sheet; (2) give me a note at the start of class with your name and the date. A day of “noting out” counts as one of your six permitted absences.

You may have the class videotaped if you obtain my permission in advance. As a general rule, viewing a videotape of the class does not count as being present in the class.

Classroom Etiquette:

Please be courteous and respectful to the others in the classroom. Keep distractions to a minimum, turn off any noise-making devices, and give the class your full attention. You are welcome to use laptops in the classroom for note-taking and other class-related tasks. However, other uses of technological devices are likely to be distracting and possibly even offensive to other persons in the classroom and are therefore prohibited. If it is absolutely necessary for you to leave the classroom while class is in session, please do not disrupt the class upon entering or exiting the room.

TWEN (The West Education Network):

You should register for this course on TWEN during the first week of classes. I will post the syllabus and reading assignments on TWEN, as well as other relevant material and information. You will be expected to check TWEN at least weekly and are responsible for any materials posted on TWEN. I will also periodically send class-related e-mails to the address you list on TWEN, so be sure you list an e-mail address that you check regularly.

Reading Assignments:

The reading assignment for the first day of class is Chapter One of the Janis book. All reading assignments will be distributed and/or posted on TWEN at appropriate times.

Students with Disabilities

The law school's policies and procedures regarding students with disabilities may be found on line at <http://www.law.siu.edu/>. Students with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations for examinations should contact the Registrar's office.

Evaluation:

Your grade will consist of multiple parts. There will be a mid-term take-home writing assignment (worth approximately 40 points) and a final take-home writing assignment (worth approximately 60 points). More information will be provided regarding these writing assignments later in the semester. I also reserve the right to administer short graded and ungraded research assignments, quizzes, etc. throughout the semester, which may be worth up to 20 more points.

In addition, students may earn up to a total of five bonus points for either engaging in above-average class participation or having an excellent class attendance record. Bonus points for above average class participation are awarded in my discretion based both the quality and quantity of a student's participation in the class discussion. With respect to the class attendance bonus points, each student begins the semester with five points; one point is deducted for each absence.