

PS123A: The Politics of International Law
Course Syllabus
Fall 2017

Professor Leslie Johns
ljohns@polisci.ucla.edu
Bunche Hall, office #3381

Teaching Assistants:

Francesca Parente	fparente@ucla.edu
Frank Wyer	fwyer@ucla.edu

LOCATION and TIME:

Haines A18
TR 9:30 – 10:45 am
Office hours for Prof. Johns: Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 am--11:45 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, 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 (Oct 31): 30%

Final exam (Dec 11): 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:

Shaw, Malcolm. (2008 or 2014) *International Law*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 6th or 7th Edition.

New copies of the Shaw text in paperback sell for around \$75.00. Cheaper used copies are widely available from internet retailers. You can also rent the textbook through Amazon for about \$24. Relatively little content changed between the 6th and 7th edition, so you may use either. Please do not use any version before the 6th edition.

Johns, Leslie. (2015) *Strengthening International Courts: The Hidden Costs of Legalization*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

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

Copies of all required 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/17F-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 0: Overview (Sept 28)

Readings: None.

Section: No materials. Sections will be administrative.

Week 1: Institutions & Treaties (Oct 3 & 5)

Readings: (T) Shaw, Chapter 19: "The International Court of Justice" (skim)

(R) Shaw, Chapter 16: "The Law of Treaties"

Section: *Nuclear Tests*--casebook

Week 2: Custom, Diplomatic Law & State Responsibility (Oct 10 & 12)

Readings: (T) Shaw, Chapter 3: "Sources"

(R) Shaw, Chapter 13: "Immunities from Jurisdiction"--pp. 545-565 only

(R) Shaw, Chapter 14: "State Responsibility"--pp. 566-598 only

(R) *Iran Hostages*--casebook

Section: *North Sea*--casebook

Week 3: Legalization and International Politics (Oct 17 & 19)

Readings: (T) Johns, Chapter 2

(R) Johns, Chapter 3

Section: Johns, Chapter 4 (*South West Africa* and *Consular Relations* cases)

Week 4: Interaction of Domestic & International Law (Oct 24 & 26)

Readings: (T) Shaw, Chapter 12: "Jurisdiction"

(T) Shaw, Chapter 13: "Immunities from Jurisdiction"--pp. 506-545 only

(R) Shaw, Chapter 4: "International Law and Municipal Law"

(R) *Foreign Practice and US Law*--casebook

Section: *Jurisdictional Immunities*--casebook

Week 5: Midterm Exam (Oct 31) & Investment Law (Nov 2)

Readings: (R) Shaw, Chapter 14: "State Responsibility"--pp. 598-612 only

Section: None (Exam grading).

Midterm Exam: Tuesday, Oct 31 in lecture

Week 6: Investment & Trade Law (Nov 7 & 9)

Readings: (T) Guzman, Andrew. (1998) "Explaining the Popularity of Bilateral Investment Treaties: Why LDCs Sign Treaties that Hurt Them." *Virginia Journal of International Law*. 38: 639-688. Edited. Posted on class webpage.

(R) Johns, Chapter 5--[*Note: Don't worry about the details of section 5.5. Focus on the big picture meaning.*]

Section: *Cigarettes*--casebook

Week 7: Trade Law (Nov 14) -- NO LECTURE on Nov 16

Readings: (T) *GATT/WTO Treatment Standards*--casebook

(T) *GATT/WTO and Economic Blockades*--casebook

Section: *US-Shrimp*--casebook

Week 8: Human Rights (Nov 21) -- NO LECTURE on Nov 23 (Thanksgiving holiday)

Readings: (T) Shaw, Chapter 6: "The International Protection of Human Rights"

(T) Shaw, Chapter 7: "The Regional Protection of Human Rights" (skim)

Section: None (Thanksgiving holiday).

Week 9: Human Rights & the Laws of War (Nov 28 & 30)

(T) Moravcsik, Andrew. (2000) "The Origins of International Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in Postwar Europe" *International Organization*. 54: 217-252. – Read pages 217-243 only. Posted on class webpage.

(R) Shaw, Chapter 20: "International Law and the Use of Force by States"

(R) Shaw, Chapter 21: "International Humanitarian Law"

Section: *Manifesting Religion*--casebook

Week 10: Criminal Law (Dec 5 & 7)

Readings: (T) Shaw, Chapter 8: "Individual Criminal Responsibility in International Law"

(R) *Universal Jurisdiction and Criminal Immunity*--casebook

Section: *Prosecute or Extradite*--casebook

Final Exam: Monday, Dec 11, 2017 @ 3:00-6:00 pm