

Political Science 341W
International Law
Fall 2008
Prof. Griffiths

This course is designed to acquaint students with the fundamental concepts of international law and its role in international relations. It explores the basis for international law and the current procedural and substantive legal issues facing the international community. Classes will consist of both lecture and discussion. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned material as well as current developments in international law.

After taking this course students will be able to do the following:

- identify the sources of and perspectives on international law
- understand the complexity of the international legal environment
- assess the arguments regarding the relevance and applicability of international law
- analyze the role of international law in addressing key international issues
- effectively argue a position on an international legal issue

Texts: *International Law in the 21st Century* by Christopher C. Joyner and *Between Peril and Promise* by J. Martin Rochester. There may also be some supplemental reading assignments. Students are also required to read *The New York Times* or *The Economist* magazine on a regular basis.

Course Requirements: Since this is a writing intensive course, the grade will be based primarily on a variety of written assignments. These will consist of analysis of international law cases as well as a 12-15 page research paper on a topic of your choice. The paper topics must be cleared with me before beginning your research. This should occur no later than 9/8/08. A one -page draft of your introduction with a preliminary annotated bibliography will be due 9/12 /08. A first draft of the paper will be due 10/8/08. The final draft of the paper will be due 11/7/08. Late assignments will be penalized two points per day. No written assignments will be accepted after the last class period of the semester. Electronic submissions of written assignments are not allowed except with prior permission. There will also be a mid-term focusing primarily on legal terms and concepts and a comprehensive final take-home essay. Class attendance is essential if you expect to do well. Class participation may also help your final grade. Please make every effort to come to class on time. Finally, make sure all cell phones or any other electronic distractions are turned off prior to the beginning of class. If you use a computer make sure it is for note taking only. If computers become a distraction I will ban them from class.

Assignments: Dates for assignments are approximate.

8/25- Perspectives on International Law.

Rochester Intro, chap. 1,2.

9/1- Sources and Enforcement of International Law.

Joyner, chap. 1 and pgs. 105-119; Rochester, chap. 3,

9/8-9/15- International Legal Actors.

Joyner, chap. 2, chap. 4, pgs. 61-69, chap. 5.

9/22-9/29- International Criminal Law.

Joyner, chap. 7.

10/6-10/13- Use of Force.

Rochester, chap. 5; Joyner chap. 8.

10/20-10/27- Human Rights.

Joyner chap. 4, pgs. 69-82; Rochester, chap. 4.

11/3-11/10- Territory.

Joyner, chap. 3,10, Rochester, chap. 7.

11/17-11/24- The Environment.

Rochester, chap. 8; Joyner, chap. 9.

12/1- The International Economy.

Rochester, chap. 6; Joyner, chap. 11.

My office is in 222 Graham. Office hours are 10-11 MWF and by appointment. My office phone number is 256-0518 and my email address is rjgriffi@uncg.edu.