

Political Science 341W
International Law
Fall 2009
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

Office Hours and Contact Information: 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.

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

Course Requirements: Since this is a speaking intensive course, the grade will be based on a variety of presentations as well as written assignments. Students will be required to submit a 12-15 page research paper on a topic of their choice as well as present a brief summary of your research project. The paper topics must be cleared with me before beginning your research. This should occur no later than 9/4/09. A one -page draft of your introduction with a preliminary annotated bibliography will be due 9/9/09. The paper will be due 11/6/09. Students will also participate in the analysis and debate of international law issues. 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 exam focusing primarily on legal terms and concepts and a comprehensive final take-home essay. Class attendance is essential.

Policy on electronic devices: The use of all electronic devices is strictly prohibited in class. This includes laptop computers, unless you can provide documentation from the Office of Disability Services that you need a computer for note taking. All phones must be turned off and put away before class. Using your phone in class will cost you five points off your final grade for the first infraction, ten for the second, etc.

Assignments: Dates for assignments are approximate.

8/24-31- Perspectives on International Law.
Rochester Intro, chap. 1,2.

9/7- Sources and Enforcement of International Law.
Joyner, chap. 1 and pgs. 105-119; Rochester, chap. 3.

9/14-9/21- International Legal Actors.

Joyner, chap. 2, chap. 3 pgs. 46-59; chap. 4, pgs. 61-69, chap. 5.

9/28-10/5- Territory.

Joyner, chap. 3 pgs. 41-46, chap. 10; Rochester, chap. 7.

10/12- Dispute Settlement.

Joyner, chap. 6, pgs. 119-130.

10/19- International Criminal Law.

Joyner, chap. 7.

10/26-11/2- Human Rights.

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

11/9-11/16- Use of Force.

Rochester, chap. 5; Joyner chap. 8.

11/23- The Environment.

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

11/30- Research presentations.