INTRODUCTION:

The objective of this course is to give students a broad introduction to the many facets of public international law. The course will examine the historical development of international law, as well as modern approaches to the discipline. With this foundation, students will be encouraged to think critically and to apply the legal principles they have learned to current situations in international affairs. Students will have the opportunity to develop their skills in research, analysis, writing and oral presentation – both individually and in collaboration with their peers. Lectures will serve to highlight and clarify – and not simply to reiterate – concepts from the required reading. Classroom discussion will be fostered in an environment of mutual respect. Both lectures and discussion will be founded upon the understanding that students have completed the required reading for the week in advance of the class.

REQUIRED READING


In addition, students will be required to refer to international treaties and case law cited in the text. Some internet links to this material are provided below. Others will be highlighted for students as the course progresses. From time to time, students may be requested to research and bring to class current articles relevant for the week’s discussion.
EVALUATION:

A. Of Coursework –

Coursework consists of two assignments, both of which must be completed in order to pass the course. Please note that the late submission of any assignment in this course will be penalized by a deduction of 5 percent for each day after the assignment is due. Work submitted after the appointed time on the day that the assignment is due will be penalized by a deduction of 3 percent.

I. Thematic Assignment = 40%
II. Analytical Assignment = 60%

III. The Thematic Assignment will have two elements: 1) an individual essay and 2) a group presentation.

The evaluation of this assignment will have two components: 1) an individual mark out of 20 for the essay and 2) an individual mark out of 20 for the presentation.

Each essay will be a maximum of 5 pages double-spaced (i.e. approximately 1250 words or 8 500 characters, including spaces). The essays will be due at the beginning of class in Week 5 (8th October 2008). The presentation will be prepared and presented by students in groups of about five, depending on the class size. The presentations will take place in class during Weeks 6 and 7 (15th and 22nd October 2008). Each presentation will be approximately twenty minutes long, including discussion time.

The research subjects for the Thematic Assignment will be chosen from the list below, or in consultation with the Instructor. Sign-up for subjects and presentation dates will take place during the first two weeks of the term and will be on a first come, first served basis.

Thematic Assignment – Suggested Research Subjects

a) The law of the sea
b) The law of air space and outer space
c) International law and indigenous peoples
d) International law governing economic activity
e) International protection of the environment
f) International protection of public health
g) International protection of human rights (choose a right or a treaty, e.g. the right to work, or the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination)
h) International protection from torture
i) United Nations reform
j) International law responses to terrorism
k) International law responses to human trafficking
l) Regional development of international law (choose a region and a theme, e.g. in 2007 one group chose the development of human rights in the Arab world)
m) International criminal law
n) International humanitarian law (also known as the law of armed conflict)
o) International protection of human rights (choose a protected population, e.g. children, persons with disabilities)

IV. The Analytical Assignment will comprise a series of questions based on the readings, class discussions (including student presentations), critical theory, international treaties and case law covered in the course. It is to be completed by each student independently. The Analytical Assignment will be distributed in class in Week 9 (5th November 2008) and will be due back at the beginning of the last class in Week 12 (26th November 2008).

B. Of Instruction

Students will have the opportunity to evaluate the course and the instruction both formally and informally. Formal evaluation will occur toward the end of the course in accordance with Carleton University procedures. In addition, there will be two informal occasions for students to provide constructive anonymous feedback to the instructor through http://www.getfast.ca/: by 10th October and by 14th November. Further details will be provided in class.
CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1
10th Sept

Introduction to the discipline of international law
Reading: Currie Chapter 1, pp. 1-20

Week 2
17th Sept

International legal personality
Reading: Currie Chapter 2, pp. 21-79
- Vienna Convention on Succession of States in respect of Treaties
- Vienna Convention on Succession of States in Respect of States Property, Archives and Debts

Week 3
24th Sept

Sources of international law
Reading: Currie Chapter 3, pp. 80-122
- Statute of the International Court of Justice, article 38
- Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, article 53
  http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instree/viennaconvention.html

Week 4
1st Oct

The Law of treaties
Reading: Currie Chapter 4, pp. 123-184
- Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations
- Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
  http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/ccpr.htm
- Ratifications, Declarations & Reservations for ICCPR
  http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/ratification/4.htm
- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
  http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm
- Ratifications, Declarations & Reservations for CEDAW
  http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/ratification/8.htm

Week 5
8th Oct

Thematic Assignment: Individual Papers due at beginning of class

Customary International Law
Reading: Currie Chapter 5, pp. 185-217

Week 6
15th Oct

Thematic Assignment: Group Presentations

Reception of International Law in Domestic Law
Reading: Currie Chapter 6, pp. 218-264

Week 7
22nd Oct

Thematic Assignment: Group Presentations

States and Territory
Reading: Currie Chapter 7, pp. 265-331
Week 8  
29th Oct  
State Jurisdiction  
Reading: Currie Chapter 8, pp. 332-362

Week 9  
5th Nov  
Jurisdictional Immunities  
Reading: Currie Chapter 9, pp. 363-411

Week 10  
12th Nov  
International Protection of Human Rights  
Reading: Currie Chapter 10, pp. 412-447

Week 11  
19th Nov  
The Use of Force in International Relations  
Reading: Currie Chapter 11, pp. 448-532
  - Declaration on Friendly Relations http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instree/principles1970.html
  - Geneva Conventions I-IV (1949) and their Protocols I & II (1977)  

Week 12  
26th Nov  
Analytical Assignment: Individual Papers due at beginning of class
  State Responsibility  
Reading: Currie Chapter 12, pp. 533-573