

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 2601 C – Public International Law
TERM:	WINTER 2024
PREREQUISITES:	1.0 credit from LAWS 1001 and LAWS 1002, or PAPM 1001 and PSCI 2003
CLASS:	Day & Time: Tuesdays from 11:35 am to 2:25 pm
	Course Format: Synchronous in-person lectures and discussion.
INSTRUCTOR:	Dr Sean Richmond (he/him)
CONTACT:	Office Hrs: Thursdays 2pm - 4pm or by appointment Telephone: 613-520-2600 x. 2082 Email: sean.richmond@carleton.ca

Note: please use your Carleton account for email communication. Questions will not be answered on the weekends, or 24 hours before the case brief is due, the mid-term, and the final exam date. Students are warmly encouraged to consult with the instructor and TAs during regular business hours, and well in advance of assessment dates. All times listed here are Eastern Standard Time.

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examination of the role of law in contemporary international relations. Nature, history and sources of international law; international personality of states; status of international organizations and individuals; creation and effect of international obligations; importance and functions of law in the settlement of international disputes.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an interdisciplinary introduction to public international law, and some of the key principles, theories and institutions associated with the international legal system. It addresses core topics such as the nature, sources and subjects of international law, and examines important contemporary legal challenges such as the use of force by states and the International Criminal Court.

Throughout the lectures, the role and limits of international law in international relations will be discussed from a legal, political and historical perspective. Practice problems, court cases, and short video clips will also be employed to help students critically analyze and apply the theoretical perspectives and legal rules that they learn to the real world of foreign affairs. Respectful and thoughtful class discussion and questions will be encouraged throughout the term. Guest speakers from government and non-governmental organizations will provide additional insight on contemporary issues such as the war in Ukraine. They will also discuss potential volunteer and employment opportunities in international law, to inspire students to think about their broader career aims.

Learning objectives: at the end of the course, students should be able to:

- 1) demonstrate an introductory level of knowledge of the key principles, theories, institutions and challenges that are discussed;
- 2) identify international legal issues and apply relevant ideas and rules to the case studies and challenges that they encounter in and outside of the class;
- 3) critically reflect on the political and historical context in which international law operates in world affairs, and the inequalities associated with it;
- 4) read, summarize and evaluate an international judicial decision; and
- 5) construct arguments in support of particular positions in international law, and show an awareness of alternative views to these positions.

LEARNING AND TEACHING CHALLENGES

Throughout the term, please remember that the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted potential learning and teaching challenges for students, instructors and Teaching Assistants (e.g. possible child and elder care responsibilities; less opportunity for connecting with each other and our support networks; potential financial hardship and mental health, etc.). As we navigate this term and learn together in-person, please remember to be patient and understanding with yourselves and others. If you have a question or need help, you are warmly encouraged to reach out to me, your TA, or the many other support services provided by Carleton: <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>

Further University statements on student mental health are included later below.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL LEARNING

Juggling university studies with life can be challenging. So here are a few tips that will help you succeed:

Stay on top of the course schedule: attend the lectures, ask questions, take notes, and review the lectures and your notes leading up to the mid-term and final exam. Chat with your TAs and the instructor during office hours. Regular attendance and participation will help ensure you keep up with the material, and get the most out of the course. It will also help you manage multiple courses and commitments.

Engage with the material: the lectures include important content from the instructor, but also interesting class discussions, student questions, exciting guest speakers, practice problems, video clips, and advice about the assignments and exams. So actively listen to and think about this material.

Stay on top of the readings and quizzes: read the assigned readings in advance of the relevant lecture, and take notes or flag questions. There are five short online reading quizzes – described below – to complete throughout the term that will help you stay caught up. Try your best to complete the quizzes.

If you have questions, please ask! Your TA and instructor are happy to respond to thoughtful emails. If you need a more thorough explanation, you are warmly encouraged to connect with us during office hours. This year will hopefully offer more opportunities to interact with one another, so try to make the most of this.

Stay flexible and positive: we are all juggling different commitments, and doing our best to learn in-person this year. But there may be unexpected challenges, and we will manage them together. I will provide regular updates about how things are going, and flag any adjustments that need to be made (e.g.

if a topic has to be rescheduled). Your TAs and instructor are excited for a great term! We hope you are as well.

REQUIRED TEXTS

John H. Currie. *Public International Law*, 2nd ed. (Irwin Law, 2008).

Hard copy will be available for purchase or rent from the Carleton bookstore. E-version will also be on reserve through the university library and Ares link on the course website.

In addition to this book, further required readings and case studies will be uploaded to the course website on Brightspace, or identified as available online.

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

For students seeking supplementary information and additional perspectives on the course topics, the following two texts are available for purchase from the Carleton bookstore.

Malcolm D. Evans (ed.). *International Law*, 5th ed. (Oxford University Press, 2018).

Michael Byers. *War Law: Understanding International Law and Armed Conflict* (Douglas, 2005).

WEBSITE

The lecture summary slides, updates and other important materials will be posted on the course website on Brightspace. Announcements and grades will also be communicated this way. Visit <https://brightspace.carleton.ca> and login with your MyCarleton1 username and password. You must be registered in the course to access the course website. **To help ensure a positive learning experience, it is imperative that students regularly check the course website and read the update emails sent by the instructor and TAs.** If you have questions about how to use Brightspace, there is a support site for students: <https://carleton.ca/brightspace/students/>

EVALUATION

Note: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Department and of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Department and the Dean.

Recalling the five learning aims described earlier, performance in the course will be evaluated as follows:

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|---|-------------------|
| 1. Five online reading quizzes for weeks 2, 4, 6, 9, and 11 | 15% (5 x 3% each) |
| 2. Case brief - due Friday February 9 by 5 pm | 20% |
| 3. In class mid-term – Tuesday February 27 | 25% |
| 4. Final exam – to be held in the final exam period | 40% |

All evaluation components must be completed in order to be eligible to receive a passing grade. Regular in person attendance in class is also required to be eligible to pass.

1. Five online reading quizzes:

To provide students with early and ongoing assessment, and to recognize the importance of keeping up with the course material, there will be five 20 minute online quizzes administered on Brightspace that evaluate student's understanding of the readings covered in weeks 2, 4, 6, 9, and 11. Each of the five quizzes is worth 3%, for a total of 15% of the final grade.

Each quiz will comprise five multiple choice questions. Students can complete them anytime from Wednesday at 12 pm the week before the applicable lecture, until 11 am on the day of the lecture (Tuesday). For example, the first quiz for week 2 readings will be available from the first quiz for week 2 readings will be available from Wednesday January 10 at 12 pm, until Tuesday January 16 at 11 am. The second quiz for week 4 readings will be available from Wednesday January 24 at 12 pm, until Tuesday January 30 at 11 am.

The third quiz for week 6 readings will be available from Wednesday February 7 at 12 pm, until Tuesday February 13 at 11 am. The fourth quiz for week 9 readings will be available from Wednesday February 28 at 12 pm, until Tuesday March 5 at 11 am. The fifth and final quiz for week 11 readings will be available from Wednesday March 13 at 12 pm, until Tuesday March 19 at 11 am.

Once the quiz is started online, students will have 20 minutes to complete the five questions. They will be marked automatically, and students will receive their result through Brightspace. The provision of 20 minutes is meant to accommodate students who may need extra time for assessments, and to allow all students adequate time to think about the questions and their answers. You are not expected to use all of this time, and students who have prepared in advance should be able to complete the quiz in 10 minutes.

Because the timing of the quizzes is already flexible, missed quizzes cannot be retaken. Please do not ask to do so. However, the final quiz grade will be based on your best four completed quizzes. This means that you can miss one, for whatever reason, without penalty. You do not need to inform the instructor if you do miss a quiz, as the "best four" policy will be implemented when final marks are being calculated. Further information about the quizzes will be provided in class.

2. Case brief:

This written assignment is worth 20% of the final grade. It will be up to 1,100 words long, not including short case citation footnotes. Students will read, summarize and contextualize the following order for provisional measures from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 16 March 2022, which is part of an ongoing case entitled *Allegations of Genocide Under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)*, available here: <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/182/182-20220316-ORD-01-00-EN.pdf>

No further external research beyond the course materials is permitted or required.

The brief should include five elements. The third, fourth, and fifth elements are most important. As such, they should comprise the majority of the brief. First, the assignment should provide a short *background*

to the order (e.g. who asked the ICJ to get involved and why?). Second, it should tell the reader what the main *legal issue* was (e.g. what question was the ICJ addressing?).

Third, the brief should summarize what major *rules or areas of international law* were seen to address the above issue (e.g. what treaties and/or customary law were seen to apply?). Fourth, the brief should tell the reader what the overall *conclusion* of the Court was regarding the main legal issue, including whether the judges agreed. Finally, the brief should reflect on *why* the ICJ concluded the way it did, and how the order demonstrates some of the *theories* of international law that have been covered so far in the course.

Further information will be provided in class, and students will be given a marking rubric on Tuesday January 16 that reflects the above instructions. The brief will be due **Friday February 9 by 5 pm**, and submitted online through Brightspace.

You are strongly advised to save your work regularly in multiple ways, and to retain a copy of all submitted assignments. Absent prior approval, briefs submitted past the due date will incur a late penalty of -1 mark (out of 20) per day, including weekends.

3. In class mid-term assessment:

To provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the course material and learning aims, there will be a mid-term assessment administered in class during our lecture time. It is worth 25% of the overall grade. Students will be responsible for all of the readings, lectures and guest speakers covered in the first half of the course.

The mid-term must be completed in-person. It will take place during class on Tuesday February 27. Students will work alone, using pens and exam booklets for their responses. The assessment will be closed book, and will comprise short-answer and essay questions. Students will choose to answer three of four short-answer questions, and one of two essay questions. There is no word limit. But as a guideline, each short-answer should be around 300-400 words, and the essay should be around 600-700 words.

Further information will be provided in class.

4. Final exam:

The final exam is worth 40% of the overall grade. It will be completed in-person on campus, and held during the university exam period of April 13 to 25. The exact date and time will be scheduled by Examination Services later in the term. Until then, please keep this exam period clear in your schedules.

The exam will be two hours long, and will comprise multiple-choice and short answer questions. Students will be responsible for all of the required readings and cases, as well as the material covered by the lectures and guest speakers. However, greater emphasis will be placed on material covered in the second half of the course. You should therefore prepare for the exam with this in mind.

Further information will be provided later in the term.

SCHEDULE

Key Dates:

Monday January 8, 2024 – Winter term classes begin

February 19 - 23, 2024 – Winter Reading Break – No Classes

April 10, 2024 – Last day of Winter classes

April 13 – 25, 2024 – Formally scheduled final exams

Please note that the following schedule may change slightly as the term progresses. Any changes will be announced in class or via Brightspace.

Week 1: Tuesday January 9, 2024

Course Overview

Required reading: the course syllabus

Week 2: Tuesday January 16

Introduction: the Nature of International Law

Required reading: Currie, chapter 1

*Note: the first quiz for week 2 readings will be available from Wednesday January 10 at 12 pm, until Tuesday January 16 at 11 am.

Week 3: Tuesday January 23

Sources of International Law: Custom

Required reading: Currie, chapters 3 (pages 80-83, 95-99) and 5 (pages 185-199)

Week 4: Tuesday January 30

Sources of International Law: Treaties

Required reading: Currie, chapter 4 (pages 123-133, 140-150, 153, 162-164)

*Note: the second quiz for week 4 readings will be available from Wednesday January 24 at 12 pm, until Tuesday January 30 at 11 am.

Week 5: Tuesday February 6

The Use of Force

Required reading: Currie, chapter 11 (pages 448-450, 458-462, 469, 482-492, 498-504, 508-512)

*Note: the case brief is due Friday February 9 by 5 pm.

Week 6: Tuesday February 13

International Legal Personality: The Subjects of International Law

Required reading: Currie, chapter 2 (pages 21-40, and 56-61)

*Note: the third quiz for week 6 readings will be available from Wednesday February 7 at 12 pm, until Tuesday February 13 at 11 am.

Week 7: Reading Break – February 19-23

No class

Week 8: Tuesday February 27

In-class mid-term - No lecture

*Note: the mid-term assessment will be completed in-class during our regular lecture time.

Week 9: Tuesday March 5

Law of the Sea and Outer Space

Required reading: Currie, chapter 7 (pages 286-290, 297-298, 304-314, 318-324)

*Note: the fourth quiz for week 9 readings will be available from Wednesday February 28 at 12 pm, until Tuesday March 5 at 11 am.

Week 10: Tuesday March 12

International Law of Armed Conflict

Required reading: David Turns, "The Law of Armed Conflict", ch. 27 in Evans (ed.), *International Law*, available through Ares library reserve link on course website.

Week 11: Tuesday March 19

International Court of Justice

Required reading: Ian Hurd, "International Court of Justice", ch. 8, in *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice*, available through course website.

*Note: the fifth and final quiz for week 11 readings will be available from Wednesday March 13 at 12 pm, until Tuesday March 19 at 11 am.

Week 12: Tuesday March 26

International Criminal Law

Required reading: Ian Hurd, "International Criminal Court", ch. 9 in *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice*, available through course website.

Week 13: Tuesday April 2

The United Nations

Required reading: Ian Hurd, "The United Nations II: international peace and security", ch. 6 in *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice*, available through course website.

Week 14: Tuesday April 9

Conclusion and Course Review

Required reading: review your notes and send questions to your TA and the instructor

University and Departmental Policies

DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Please review the following webpage to ensure that your practices meet our Department's expectations, particularly regarding standard departmental protocols and academic integrity requirements: <https://carleton.ca/law/student-experience-resources/>.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own. This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, lab reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative Artificial Intelligence tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course. More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (e.g. ChatGPT)

Unless explicitly permitted by the instructor in a particular course either generally or for a specific assignment, any use of generative Artificial Intelligence tools to produce assessed content is a violation of academic integrity standards.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows.

Pregnancy Obligation

Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details about the

accommodation policy, visit the [Equity and Inclusive Communities \(EIC\)](#) website.

Religious Obligation

Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, please go to: <https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/discrimination-harassment/religious-spiritual-observances/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. You can find the Paul Menton Centre online at: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>

If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level.

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. Read more here: <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>.

For more information on academic accommodation, please visit: <https://students.carleton.ca/services/accommodation/>.

REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

In recent years, requests have been increasing for extensions that do not meet one of the recognized Academic Accommodation categories above. When responding to such requests, instructors aim to support the individual circumstances of each student, while also maintaining fairness to other students and academic integrity for our courses. Please keep this in mind if you are considering requesting an extension.

Such requests are determined by the instructor, who will confirm whether the request is granted and, if so, the length of the extension. For requests less than seven days, please complete the self-declaration

form below, and submit it to the instructor and your TA *prior* to the assignment due date:

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/self-declaration.pdf>

Extensions longer than seven days will normally not be granted. In those extraordinary cases where more time is needed, the student must provide additional information to justify this (up to a maximum of 14 days).

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT ON STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>