

Carleton University Department of Law and Legal Studies

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 2601 A — Public International Law
TERM:	Summer 2026
PREREQUISITES:	1.0 credit from LAWS 1001 and LAWS 1002, or PAPM 1001 and PSCI 2003
CLASS:	Day and Time: This course is entirely online. Recorded lectures will be posted on Brightspace each week.
INSTRUCTOR:	Prof. Umut Özsu
CONTACT:	Office Hours: Wednesday, from 12:30 to 13:30 (online) Email: Umut.Ozsu@carleton.ca
BRIGHTSPACE:	https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/420870

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

Public international law has a complex history, one that lends itself to conflicting interpretations. It has also been the object of a variety of competing theoretical projects, most of which diverge radically on questions of form and substance. This course provides an historically and theoretically reinforced introduction to the basic rules, principles, and institutions of public international law.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will be introduced to the basic doctrinal and theoretical architecture of public international law: statehood and other modes of international legal personality; treaties, customs, and other sources of international law; the nature and assertion of jurisdiction; the relation between domestic and international law; and issues involving the threat or use of force. You will also be introduced to a number of important sub-fields, including but not limited to international criminal law, international human rights law, international environmental law, and international Indigenous law.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The two required texts for this course are as follows:

Antony Anghie, *Imperialism, Sovereignty and the Making of International Law* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005). Paperback edition. ISBN: 9780521702720. Cost: \$45.95.

Umut Özsü, *Completing Humanity: The International Law of Decolonization, 1960–82* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023). Paperback edition. ISBN: 9781108447041. Cost: \$45.95.

You must have access throughout the semester to both of these books. I strongly encourage you to purchase copies of both. Each is available for a cost of \$45.95 at the Campus Bookstore (formerly known as the Carleton Bookstore). Carleton Library has a small number of copies of each book, as well as electronic access to both. If you are unable to afford the paperback editions of these books, I recommend that you use the electronic versions available through the library. However, it would be best to purchase the paperback editions of both books, since we will be reading and referring to them throughout the semester.

EVALUATION

There are four formal evaluation components in this course: two multiple-choice quizzes, an essay, and a final multiple-choice exam to be held during the formal examination period.

Quiz 1: 20%

Quiz 2: 20%

Essay: 30%

Final exam: 30%

These evaluation components operate as follows:

1. Quiz 1

The first quiz will be held online on **Thursday, July 16, from 12:00 to 12:40 pm**. This quiz will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions relating to the material that has been covered in the lectures and lecture slides until that point. You will have 40 minutes to complete the quiz. The quiz will use a remote proctoring service provided by Scheduling and Examination Services. You can find more information about this proctoring service [here](#). The minimum computing requirements for this service are listed on the Scheduling and Examination Services [webpage](#).

2. Quiz 2

The second quiz will be held online on **Monday, August 3, from 12:00 to 12:40 pm**. This quiz will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions relating to the material that has been covered in the lectures and lecture slides since the date of the first quiz. You will have 40 minutes to complete

the quiz. The quiz will use a remote proctoring service provided by Scheduling and Examination Services. You can find more information about this proctoring service [here](#). The minimum computing requirements for this service are listed on the Scheduling and Examination Services [webpage](#).

3. Essay

You will write an essay on one of three topics that I will provide to you at the beginning of the course. This essay must be between 1800 and 2200 words in total (not including any notes or bibliographical materials). It must have a clear thesis, be driven by a structured argument, be written in clear and grammatically correct English, and draw upon at least some of the cases, issues, theories, and/or debates that we have examined in the course, making substantial reference to the two books you will read in the course. I will provide instructions, including details on the grading rubric, in due course.

The essay will be due by midnight on **Tuesday, August 11**. It must be submitted electronically via Brightspace by this deadline.

4. Final exam

The final exam will be held online during the formally scheduled exam period at the end of the semester. The final exam will consist of 60 multiple-choice questions. It will be a cumulative exam, in the sense that you will be responsible for all material covered in the lectures, lecture slides, and two books assigned in the course. You will have 80 minutes to complete the exam. The exam will use a remote proctoring service provided by Scheduling and Examination Services. You can find more information about this proctoring service [here](#). The minimum computing requirements for this service are listed on the Scheduling and Examination Services [webpage](#).

Please note that 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.

All four components must be successfully completed in order to get a passing grade in the course.

LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

If you would like to request an extension for less than seven days, please complete [this form](#) and submit it to me **no later than 48 hours prior to the relevant due date**.

Extensions longer than seven days will typically not be granted. In those extraordinary cases where extensions longer than seven days are granted, you will be required to provide additional information to justify the longer extension.

Unless you obtain an extension prior to the submission deadline, **15% will be deducted from your grade on each assignment for every 24 hours past the relevant deadline.**

POLICY ON PERMISSIBILITY OF SUBMITTING SAME WORK MORE THAN ONCE, PERMISSIBILITY OF GROUP OR COLLABORATIVE WORK, AND PERMISSIBILITY OF USING GENERATIVE AI

You are strictly prohibited from submitting any work that has been previously submitted for academic credit in another course. Any such submission will result in a grade of 0%, and you will be referred to the university's academic integrity office for review. Re-using any portion of previous work, regardless of its extent, will be treated as a violation of academic integrity.

You are not permitted to cooperate or collaborate on the assignments. Any unauthorized collaboration will result in the assignment receiving a grade of 0% and you being referred to the academic integrity office. This policy applies to all tests, exams, and individual assignments. Proofreading by others is not allowed.

AI use in this course: You may use AI tools for basic word-processing functions, including grammar and spell-checking (e.g. Grammarly, Microsoft Word Editor, Copilot).

Documenting AI use: It is not necessary to document the use of AI for the permitted purposes listed above. If you have questions about a specific use of AI that is not listed above, please consult me.

Why have I adopted this policy? This policy ensures that student voices and ideas are prioritized and authentically represented, maintaining the integrity of the work produced by students while allowing basic support to enhance clarity, correctness, layout, and flow of ideas. The goal of adopting a limited use of AI is to help students develop foundational skills in writing and critical thinking by practicing substantive content creation without the support of AI.

SCHEDULE

Dates for Releasing Recorded Lectures Topic and Readings

Thursday, July 2	General introduction [no readings]
Monday, July 6	Treaties, customs, and other sources of international law [no readings]
Thursday, July 9	Statehood, recognition, and jurisdiction [no readings]
Monday, July 13	The United Nations system and the relation between domestic and international law [no readings]

Thursday, July 16	Quiz 1 Use of force and international criminal law [no readings]
Monday, July 20	International human rights law, international Indigenous law, and international environmental law [no readings]
Thursday, July 23	History and theory of international law: from the School of Salamanca to Victorian-era international law (Anghie, introduction, chs. 1 and 2)
Monday, July 27	History and theory of international law: from the League of Nations Mandates System to the “post-colonial” state (Anghie, chs. 3 and 4)
Thursday, July 30	History and theory of international law: self-determination and <i>jus cogens</i> in post-1945 decolonization (Özsu, introduction, chs. 1 and 2)
Monday, August 3	Quiz 2 History and theory of international law: international development law and the New International Economic Order project (Özsu, ch. 3; Anghie, ch. 5)
Thursday, August 6	History and theory of international law: North/South divisions and the law of the sea (Özsu, ch. 4)
Monday, August 10	General concluding session [no readings]

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES

PLAGIARISM

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*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, laboratory 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 AI 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 that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

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.

For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>

Emergency Resources (on and off campus):

- <https://wellness.carleton.ca/get-help-now/>
- 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/>

- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (students.carleton.ca/course-outline).

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

Pregnancy and Family-Status Related Accommodations

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/>.

Academic Consideration for Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances

Due to medical and other extenuating circumstances, students may occasionally be unable to fulfill the academic requirements of their course(s) in a timely manner. The University supports the academic development of students and aims to provide a fair environment for students to succeed academically. Medical and/or other extenuating circumstances are circumstances that are beyond a student's control, have a significant impact on the student's capacity to meet their academic obligations, and could not have reasonably been prevented.

Students must contact the instructor(s) as soon as possible, and normally no later than 24 hours after the submission deadline for course deliverables. If not satisfied with the instructor's decision, students can conduct an "informal appeal" to the Chair of the department within three (3) working days of an instructor's decision. We have created a webform specifically for appeals to the Chair, which can be found here: <https://carleton.ca/law/application-for-review-of-refusal-to-provide-academic-consideration/>. *Note: This form only applies to LAWS courses and is not the same as a formal appeal of grade.* More information about the academic consideration can be found [here](#).