

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 2601 A — Public International Law
TERM:	Summer 2025
PREREQUISITES:	1.0 credit from LAWS 1001, LAWS 1002, or PAPM 1001 and PSCI 2003
CLASS:	Day & Time: This class is entirely online. Recorded lectures will be posted on Brightspace twice weekly.
INSTRUCTOR:	Prof. Umut Özsu
CONTACT:	Office Hours: Wednesday, 11:35 — 13:25 (online) Email: Umut.Ozsu@carleton.ca
Brightspace:	https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/339481

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.

You will be introduced to the basic doctrinal and theoretical architecture of the field: 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.

Students will also be introduced to a number of rapidly developing sub-fields: international criminal law; state-building and humanitarian intervention; international human rights law; Indigenous peoples and international law; and international environmental law.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The principal required text for this course is Phillip M. Saunders et al., eds., *Kindred's International Law, Chiefly as Interpreted and Applied in Canada*, 9th ed. (Toronto: Emond Montgomery, 2019) ("Kindred"). ISBN: 978-1-77255-486-1. Estimated price: \$169.00.

This text should be available at the Carleton University Bookstore. It is important that you have access to the most recent edition of this text, as its contents are significantly different from previous editions. You may also be able to obtain used copies of this text at Haven Books or other second-hand bookstores in and around Ottawa.

Electronic copies of all other required texts will be made available to students.

EVALUATION

Standing in a course is determined by me subject to the approval of the Department of Law and Legal Studies and the Dean of Faculty of Public Affairs. This means that grades submitted by me may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the department and dean.

There are three formal evaluation components to this course:

Mid-term exam: 30% (to be formally scheduled by the university)

Essay: 35% (due by midnight on Monday, June 2)

Final exam: 35% (during the formally scheduled exam period)

These evaluation components operate as follows:

1. Mid-term exam

We will hold an online mid-term exam at a time that will be determined by the university. You will need to make yourself available to write the exam at some point between 9:00 am and 9:00 pm on that date; no exceptions will be made, and no student may write the exam on another date.

The exam will consist of 60 multiple-choice questions. You will be responsible for all material covered in class (and on accompanying slides) until the date of the exam. You will have 60 minutes to complete the exam.

2. Essay

You are required to prepare an essay on one of three topics that I will provide to you at the beginning of the course. This essay must be approximately 1500 words in total (not including footnotes), with a maximum upper limit of 2000. It must have a clear thesis, be driven by a structured argument, and draw upon at least some of the cases, issues, theories, debates, and/or questions that we have examined in the course. Please do not include a bibliography. However, you do need to support your claims with footnotes.

Be sure to adhere to a consistent style of citation throughout the entirety of your paper. I do not care which style of citation you choose to employ. My own preference tends to be the system set out in the *Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation*, 10th edition (Toronto: Carswell, 2025), information about which is available [here](#). But I am not sticky on your choice of citation style. Whichever style of citation you employ, be sure to do so correctly and consistently.

The essay is due by midnight on **Monday, June 2**. It must be submitted electronically via Brightspace in advance of this deadline.

3. Final exam

We will hold a final exam during the formally scheduled exam period at the end of the course. The final exam will consist of anywhere between 50 and 75 multiple-choice questions. It will be a “cumulative” exam, which is to say that you will be responsible for all material covered in class. You will have two hours to complete the exam.

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE

Please note that there will be no “make-up” or “grade booster” assignments under any circumstances. Deferrals are granted by the Registrar’s Office.

Please also note that standing in a course is determined by me, subject to the approval of the department chair and faculty dean. This means that grades I submit may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the department and faculty.

LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

The granting of extensions is determined by me. For requests for extensions of less than two days, please send me an email. For requests for extensions of more than two days, please complete [this form](#) and send it to me with an accompanying email prior to the relevant deadline. All such requests must be received at least two days prior to the deadline in question.

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

Students 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 the student 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.

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

The use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, to produce any part of an assignment or test is strictly forbidden. Any use of AI for content creation, even for small edits, will result in an automatic grade of 0, and the student will be referred to the academic integrity office for disciplinary action.

SCHEDULE

Lecture

Topic and Reading Assignment

Week of Monday, May 5, 2025	General introduction Treaties, Customs, and Other Sources of International Law (Kindred, ch. 1) Statehood, Recognition, and International Legal Personality (Kindred, ch. 2)
Week of Monday, May 12, 2025	Jurisdiction (Kindred, ch. 4) Domestic Law and International Law (Kindred, ch. 3)
Week of Monday, May 19, 2025	Use of Force (Kindred, ch. 11) International Criminal Law (Kindred, ch. 6)
Week of Monday, May 26, 2025	State-Building and Humanitarian Intervention (readings on Brightspace) International Human Rights Law
Week of Monday, June 2, 2025	Indigenous Peoples and International Law (readings on Brightspace) International Environmental Law (Kindred, ch. 10)
Week of Monday, June 9, 2025	Final exam preparation

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 Obligation 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](#).