



Political Science 2004

The Politics of International Law

TuTh, 2:00pm – 3:15pm, Middlebush Hall, Room 309

Prof. Bryce Reeder

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Office Location: Professional Building, Room 210

Office Hours: Mondays, 10am – noon (and by appointment)

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This syllabus is subject to change at my discretion.

### Teaching Assistant:

Myunghee Lee

Office: Professional Building, Room 304

Office Hours: MW, 10am – 1pm (and by appointment)

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**Course Description:** This course provides an introduction to the development and evolution of international law. Using contemporary events and international relations theory, we explore the origins of international law, discuss why (or why not) states choose to comply, and consider important issue areas such as war, trade, environmental protection, and human rights to determine the importance of international law in the contemporary international system.

**Prerequisite(s):** *none*

**Note(s):** Several topics, such as the use of violence during war, will be disturbing to all. Please talk to me if you have any questions/concerns about this content.

**Credit Hours:** 3

### Required Texts:

- Rochester, J. Martin. 2013. *Between Peril and Promise: The Politics of International Law*. CQ Press. ISBN 9781608717101
- Woodward, Bob. 2004. *Plan of Attack: The Definitive Account of the Decision to Invade Iraq*. Simon & Schuster. ISBN 9780743255486
- Kaplan, Robert D. 2015. *Asia's Cauldron: The South China Sea and the End of a Stable Pacific*. Random House Trade Paperbacks. ISBN 970812984804
- Power, Samantha. 2013. *"A Problem from Hell": America and the Age of Genocide*. Basic Books. ISBN 97880465061518

### Recommended Materials (free to view online):

- *Bush's War*. 2008. Frontline, PBS.

- *Paris to Pittsburgh*. 2018. Film directed by Sidney Beaumont and Michael Bonfiglio. National Geographic Documentary Films.

### Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course, students will:

- be familiar with the history and sources of international law.
- understand and be able to describe the evolution of international law.
- be familiar with international laws governing war, environmental protection, the sea, and human rights.
- have specialized knowledge of four contemporary issues and how they relate to international law.
- understand and be able to describe the scholarly debate surrounding the efficacy of international law.

### Course Requirements:

- *Attendance*: Students are expected to attend and actively participate in this course. To this end, each student is allowed 1 “free day” – absences that will not lead to a penalty. After this free day, however, students will be penalized 2% off of their final grade for each additional course missed. **After 8 absences, an F grade will be assigned.**

Please note, however, that some of these missed points can be “earned back” by above-average participation during class discussion (but not after 8 absences have occurred).

- *Quiz*: There will be a single quiz. This quiz covers the basics of international law and IR theories that will be used throughout the course. The quiz will consist of 5 multiple choice questions and 1 short (6-8 sentence) essay.
- *Modules*: The core of this course are four modules that explore an area of international law and link it to a contemporary case. Each module will consist of a case discussion, overview of a international law topic, and a week of discussion that summarizes competing arguments. For each module, students will be expected to submit an essay. Students may also submit a revised version of the essay for extra credit. **Revised essays are due a week after assignments are returned to students (these deadlines will be announced in class).**

### Grade Distribution:

Requirement	Percentage	Details
Attendance/Participation	10%	1 free day without penalty, 2% for each additional day 8 or more classes missed = F grade assigned
Quiz	10%	multiple choice and essay covers basics of international law and IR theory
War & Peace Module	20%	Iraq War essay (20%) may revise for extra credit (up to 3%)
Environmental Law Module	20%	Paris Climate Agreement essay (20%) may revise for extra credit (up to 3%)
Law of the Sea Module	20%	China and the South China Sea essay (20%) may revise for extra credit (up to 3%)
International Human Rights Module	20%	genocide essay (20%) may revise for extra credit (up to 3%)

## Letter Grade Distribution:

$\geq 93.00$	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	$\leq 59.99$	F

## Course Policies:

- **General**

- Computers and other technology are only to be used for taking notes. **Students caught using technology for purposes unrelated to class will be banned from using said devices during class time.**
- All quizzes and exams are closed book, no notes (unless otherwise noted).
- No makeup quizzes or exams will be given. If you have a conflict you must discuss this with the instructor **before** the exam/quiz, not after.
- No recording devices are allowed in class, unless authorized in writing by the instructor.

- **Grades**

- Grades in the **C** range represent performance that **meets expectations**; Grades in the **B** range represent performance that is **substantially better** than the expectations; Grades in the **A** range represent work that is **excellent**.
- It is the responsibility of the student to follow up with their assigned teaching assistant with questions about grading. There are 4 steps to this process:
  - \* Students **must wait 48 hours** before contacting their assigned teaching assistant.
  - \* Grade inquiries **must occur within 2 weeks** after the assignment has been returned.
  - \* Questions/concerns about grading **must be submitted in writing** to the teaching assistant, who will then respond in writing.
  - \* If the dispute is not resolved, both written items will be given to the instructor and the assignment will be regraded. Note that during this process, **the assigned score may increase or decrease**.

- **Assignments**

- Students are expected to work independently, unless otherwise specified. **Offering and accepting** answers from others is an act of **plagiarism**, which is a serious offense and **all involved parties will be penalized according to university policy**. Discussion amongst students is encouraged, but when in doubt, direct your questions to the instructor.
- **No late assignments will be accepted under any circumstances.**

- **Attendance and Absences**

- Students are allowed to miss 1 class without penalty. After 1 absence, students will be penalized 2% off of attendance grade for each additional day. **After the 8th absence, an F grade will be assigned.**
- Students are responsible for all missed work, regardless of the reason for absence. It is also the absentee's responsibility to get all missing notes or materials.

- **Students with Disabilities**

- If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.
- If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Office of Disability Services, S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations.

- **Plagiarism and Other Violations of Academic Integrity**

- Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. **The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters.** Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

- **Intellectual Pluralism**

- The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities; the MU Equity Office, or [equity@missouri.edu](mailto:equity@missouri.edu).
- All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

- **Intellectual Property Notice**

- All course materials including but not limited to the syllabus, course assignments, study guides, learning guides, online lecture videos and content, and lab book (i.e. course pack) are property of the instructor and University and may not be shared online or distributed in any manner to others. Students are prohibited from posting course materials or notes online and from selling notes to or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the professor teaching this course. Doing so will constitute both an academic integrity violation and a copyright

violation. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to civil penalties and criminal liability. Violations of academic integrity may subject you to disciplinary action under University policies.

## Course Schedule

**Week 1** (January 22, 24) – Introduction to Course/What is International Law?

- Rochester, Chapter 1
  - Be prepared to discuss study questions 1, 2, and 4 on page 335.

**Week 2** (January 29, 31) – Sources of International Law

January 31: No Class

- Rochester, Chapter 3
  - Be prepared to discuss study questions 1, 2, and 5 on page 336.

**Week 3** (February 5, 7) – IR Theory and International Law

February 7: Quiz

- Rochester, Chapter 2
  - Be prepared to discuss study questions 3 and 4 on page 336.

**Week 4** (February 12, 14) – Introduction to Iraq War

- Woodward, Chapters 29-35 required; entire book recommended

**Week 5** (February 19, 21) – Laws Governing War and Peace

- Rochester, Chapter 6
  - Be prepared to discuss study questions 2 and 3 on page 338.
- Paulus, Andreas. “[The War Against Iraq and the Future of International Law: Hegemony or Pluralism?](#)” *Michigan Journal of International Law* 25 (3), 2004.

**Week 6** (February 26, 28) – Iraq War Arguments & Essay Development

March 1: War and Peace Essay Due (submit via Canvas by 11:59pm)

- Politico: “[Bush makes case for war with Iraq, Sept. 4, 2002](#)”
- Vice News: “[The CIA Just Declassified the Document That Supposedly Justified the Iraq Invasion](#)”

**Week 7** (March 5, 7) – Introduction to Paris Climate Agreement & US Withdrawal

- United Nations: “[What is the Paris Agreement?](#)”
- Zhang, Hai-Bin, Han-Cheng Dai, Hua-Xia Lai, and Wen-Tao Wang. “[US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement: Reasons, Impacts, and China’s response](#)” *Advances in Climate Change Research* 88 (4), 2017.

**Week 8** (March 12, 14) – International Environmental Law

- Rochester, Chapter 8
  - Be prepared to discuss study questions 1, 2, and 4 on page 340.
- China ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Centre; United Nations Environment Programme. “[Enforcement of Environmental Law: Good Practices from Africa, Central Asia, ASEAN Countries and China](#),” 2014.

**Week 9** (March 19, 21) – Paris Climate Agreement Arguments & Essay Development

March 22: International Environmental Law Essay Due (submit via Canvas by 11:59pm)

- New York Times: “[US Climate Report Warns of Damaged Environment and Shrinking Economy](#)”
- Frontline: “[Aspirational Climate Goal Embraced at UN Talks, But Not by US](#)”

**Week 10** (March 26, 28) – Spring Break, No Class

**Week 11** (April 2, 4) – Introduction to China and the South China Sea

April 4: No Class

- Kaplan, Chapters 1,2, and 8 required; entire book recommended

**Week 12** (April 9, 11) – Laws Governing the Sea and Mechanisms of Dispute Resolution

- Rochester, Chapter 4
  - Be prepared to discuss study questions 1, 3, and 5 on page 337.
- Ian Brownlie, QC. “[The Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes](#)” *Chinese Journal of International Law* 8 (2), 2009.

**Week 13** (April 16, 18) – China and the South China Sea Arguments & Essay Development

April 19: Law of the Sea/Dispute Resolution Essay Due (submit via Canvas by 11:59pm)

- New York Times: [“What China Has Been Building in the South China Sea”](#)
- New York Times: [“China’s Sea Control is a Done Deal, ‘Short of War With the U.S.’”](#)

**Week 14** (April 23, 25) – Introduction to Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing

- Power, Chapters 1-6
- Read 2 cases from Power (cases found between Chapters 8-12)

**Week 15** (April 30, May 2) – Laws Governing Human Rights

- Rochester, Chapter 5
  - Be prepared to discuss study questions 1, 4, and 6 on page 337-338.
- Mennecke, Martin. [“The Crime of Genocide and International Law”](#) in *The Holocaust and other Genocides* edited by Barbara Boender and Wichert ten Have. Amsterdam University Press, 2012.

**Week 16** (May 7, May 9) – Genocide Arguments & Essay Development

May 10: Human Rights Essay Due (submit via Canvas by 11:59pm)

- Reuters: [“Human rights law group calls for tribunal on crimes against Rohingya”](#)
- BBC News: [“Khmer Rouge leaders found guilty of Cambodia genocide”](#)
- Human Rights Watch: [“Atrocities as the New Normal: Time to Re-Energize the ‘Never Again’ Movement”](#)