

## **International Law POLS 390**

### **Course Information:**

Fall 2012  
Classroom: FGM 217  
Meeting Time: 11-11:50 a.m. MWF  
Course Website: Moodle

### **Contact Information:**

Instructor: Elizabeth Nyman  
Email: enyman@louisiana.edu  
Office: Mouton Hall 229  
Office Hours: TR 9-12 & 1-3, or by appt.

### **Course Description and Objectives**

The primary purpose of this course is to introduce students to international law. It will cover various topics, including sources of international law, domestic applications of international law, jurisdiction, agreements, and rights of the individual. It is designed to provide an overview of the major topics in international law from the viewpoint of an international relations scholar, and will serve students who are interested in the academic study of the topic as well as those who may consider pursuing a career in international law. Upon completion of this course, students should have a strong basic knowledge of international law and the various topics covered by it. The course will require a range of readings, regular attendance and class participation, and efforts to understand the complexity of international law.

### **Required Text**

*Law Among Nations.* Gerhard Von Glahn and James Taulbee.

I will support use of the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> editions in class.

### **Course Requirements**

- (1) **Examinations:** There will be three exams in this course. The first two exams are worth 20% of the total course grade, and the third exam will be worth 25%. Exams will be based on both the readings and the lectures.
  
- (2) **Participation:** This class is an upper level seminar which covers complex issues in international law. As such, students are required to complete the assigned readings before class, attend class regularly, and participate actively in class discussion. Students will be graded on their participation in class discussion, and this will make up 15% of the course grade.
  
- (3) **Paper:** There will be one writing assignment for this course, worth 20% of the final grade. It will be 6-8 pages long, and will require reading a legal case decided by the International Court of Justice. More details about this writing assignment will be distributed later in the semester.

## Course Letter Grades

Final course letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

- A: 90-100
- B: 80-89
- C: 70-79
- D: 60-69
- F: 59 and below

I will not respond to end of semester emails requesting a grade change.

## Course Policies

**Absences from Exams and Late Work:** Makeup exams will be allowed when students are participating in formally sanctioned University events if proper documentation is provided to the instructor prior to the exam. Makeup exams will also be allowed in the case of an extraordinary circumstance if accompanied by sufficient documentation within two days after the exam. The instructor reserves the right to determine what constitutes an extraordinary circumstance.

**Academic Honor Policy:** Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students committing these violations will be punished according to University policy. Be familiar with what constitutes plagiarism; ignorance is not an excuse. Consult Section V in the UL-Lafayette Undergraduate Bulletin for the university definitions of plagiarism for more information about what constitutes an offense.

**Courtesy in the Classroom:** Attention to classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distraction. As such, please silence and put away all cell phones and other electronic devices during class time. Please be on time to class and remain in class until you are dismissed. If you must arrive late or leave early, please take the seat nearest an exit, and enter or leave as quietly as possible. Please show respect for your fellow students by refraining from talking during lectures, as well as when other students are speaking. Similarly, please respect the opinions of your fellow students, even if you are in disagreement with them. Repeated disruption of class will lead to a reduction of your final grade.

**Nondiscrimination Policy:** ULL does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation or disability. This classroom is intended to be a positive learning environment based upon open communication and mutual respect. If you have any suggestions as to how I can improve the learning environment in this course, please let me know. I will give all such suggestions serious consideration.

**Health Issues and Disabilities:** Students are encouraged to address any special needs or accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs. Those seeking accommodations based on disabilities should speak with the Office of Disability Services at 337-482-5252 or [ods@louisiana.edu](mailto:ods@louisiana.edu) and receive documentation. You can also visit the ODS website (<http://disability.louisiana.edu>) for information on ODS services and on eligibility requirements. Furthermore, if you are concerned about your physical and/or mental

well-being, I strongly encourage you to visit the UL Counseling and Testing Center, Saucier Wellness Center, OK Allen Hall, or call them at 337-482-6480. After hours help can be found by calling University Police at 337-482-6447 and asking to speak with the counselor on call.

**Emergency Evacuation Procedure:** Students with any sort of condition that may place them at risk during an emergency evacuation are responsible for preplanning their own evacuation strategies. You are also responsible for identifying yourself to your professor at the beginning of the semester and sharing information on your particular needs and your evacuation plan.

### **Course Outline\***

**August 20** – Introduction to Course

**August 22 & 24** – What is International Law?

Reading: Chapter 1

**August 27** – History of International Law

Reading: Chapter 2

**August 29** – NO CLASS (Hurricane)

**August 31** – Sources of International Law

Reading: Chapter 3

**Sept. 3** – NO CLASS (Labor Day)

**Sept. 5** – Sources of International Law cont.

Reading: Chapter 3

**Sept 7 & 10** – International Agreements

Reading: Chapter 4

**Sept. 12 & 14** – Applying International Law Domestically

Reading: Chapter 6

**Sept. 17 & 19** – Actors in International Law

Reading: Chapter 7

**Sept. 21** – **FIRST EXAM**

**Sept. 24 & 26** – Rights and Duties of International Actors

Reading: Chapter 8

**Sept. 28, & Oct. 1** – Nationality

Reading: Chapter 9

**Oct. 3, 5 & 10** – Jurisdiction  
Reading: Chapter 10

**Oct. 10 & 15** – State Responsibility for Injuries to Aliens  
Reading: Chapter 11

**Oct. 12** – **FALL HOLIDAY**

**Oct. 17, 19, & 22** – Law of the Sea  
Reading: Chapter 12  
**PAPER DUE OCT. 22**

**Oct. 24** – **SECOND EXAM**

**Oct. 26, 29, & 31**– Air and Space  
Reading: Chapter 13

**Nov. 2, 5, & 7** – International Law and the Environment  
Reading: Chapter 18

**Nov. 9 & 12** – Individual under International Law: Human Rights  
Reading: Chapter 15

**Nov. 14 & 16** – International Criminal Law  
Reading: Chapter 16

**Nov. 19 & 21** – War Crimes  
Reading: Chapter 21

**Nov. 23** - **THANKSGIVING**

**Nov. 26 & 28** – War Crime Tribunals  
Reading: Chapter 22

**Nov. 30** – Course Wrapup

**Dec. 7** – **FINAL EXAM (2 – 4:30 p.m.)**

**\*This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change.**