

POLI 385 International Organizations and Law

Spring 2024

TuTh 9:30-10:45

SCI D320

Prof. John C. Blakeman

Office: SCI D337

Office Hours: T, Th, 10am-12 noon; and by appointment. Zoom appointments are possible.

e-mail: jblakema@uwsp.edu

Course Description

This course covers international law and international organizations. International law concerns the legal rules and principles that regulate sovereign states in the international system, and international organizations are institutions that determine policy and help regulate various aspects of the international system. We study the primary building blocks of international law and the various roles that international organizations play.

Learning Outcomes

Some of the learning outcomes for this course are listed below. Students will:

- learn about the international legal system;
- learn about the roles and functions of various international organizations;
- read and critically analyze international legal materials; and
- learn about current international topics and issues.

Class Decorum: academic success hinges upon a classroom environment that supports learning. To that end, I ask that all classroom disruptions be kept to a minimum. At the very least, please do not confer with your classmate during lectures, please turn off all cell-phones and other electronic devices, please arrive to class on time, and so forth. If you do arrive to class late, please take your seat with a minimum of disruption; likewise if you have to leave early. If you need to leave early, clear it with me prior to class. If you arrive late, please see me after class is over.

Statement on Academic Integrity: I take very seriously the issue of academic integrity—the idea that academic honesty is a vital part of higher education. For the UWSP policy on academic integrity—what it is, and violations of it—I refer you to the Community Rights and Responsibilities Document given to all UWSP students. Academic misconduct in this course may result in sanctions, which may include (but are not limited to: a 0 on a specific assignment; a failing grade in the course; removal from the course.

Student Privacy: Federal law protects your privacy as a college student, which means your academic records generally cannot be released without your permission. Therefore, I cannot discuss your grades and classroom performance with your roommate, friends, and even parents.

Communication: I will use UWSP e-mail as the main means of communicating with the class. I expect you to monitor your university e-mail account frequently. You must have access to UWSP e-mail and CANVAS in order to take this course.

Grade distribution:

A	94-100%	A-	90-93%		
B+	87-89%	B	84-86%	B-	80-83%
C+	77-79%	C	74-76%	C-	70-73%
D+	66-69%	D	60-65%	F	<60%

Grading:

Participation/Attendance:	20%	Mid-term Exam:	20%
Paper #1:	20%	Final Exam:	20%
Paper #2:	20%		

Due Dates:

Paper #1: February 18 (Sunday) 11:59pm.
Paper #2: April 21 (Sunday) 11:59pm.
Midterm Exam: March 17 (Sunday), 11:59pm.
Final Exam: May 15, 5pm. NOTE: this is the day of the final exam for this course.

Grade Rubrics:

Grade rubrics for papers and participation are posted in Canvas. Be sure to review them.

Turnitin, Plagiarism, and use of Artificial Intelligence

Turnitin is used to scan all written work in this course for plagiarism and use of AI. The detailed policy is in Canvas.

Late Assignment Policy:

There is a late assignment policy posted in Canvas. Be sure to review it.

Paper Assignments and Exams:

Paper #1: You will write a short paper (750 words minimum) in which you address how you view the international system. See the specific prompt in Canvas.

Paper #2: You will write a longer paper (1500 words minimum) in which you address one of the paper prompts in Canvas. See Canvas assignment page for details.

Mid-Term Exam: The midterm will be an essay uploaded to Canvas. 1500 words minimum.

Final Exam: The final exam will be an essay uploaded to Canvas. 1500 words minimum. Prompt opens Friday May 6 at 8am; essay must be submitted no later than May 15 at 5pm. NOTE THAT THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT THAN PAPERS #1 AND #2.

Texts:

Textrental: International Law and International Relations, Mark Weston Janis and John E. Noyes, (West Publishing 2018). Referred to as “Casebook” in the syllabus.

Purchase (Required): International Organizations, Ian Hurd, 4th Edition (Cambridge University Press 2021)

January 23, 25 Introduction

Module 1: International Law, International Organizations, and the International System

January 28, 30

Thucydides, Melian Dialogue (Canvas)
Chapters 1,2 Ian Hurd International Organizations
Mark Janis, Casebook: 3-6; History of International Law
Casebook: 153-170: States and International Law

February 1

As above

Module 2: Sources of International Law

February 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22

Readings:

Casebook: 33-153

Treaties, 33-59

Eastern Airlines v. Floyd, U.S. Supreme Court; 59-68

Customary Law. 68-102

Paquete Habana Case, U.S. Supreme Court

Lotus Case, Permanent Court of International Justice

Texaco v. Libya Arbitration

General Principles of Law, 102-112

The AM&S Case, European Court of Justice

Natural Law and Jus Cogens, 112-120, 125-129.

U.S. v. Smith, U.S. Supreme Court

The Michael Domingues Case, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

Equity, 129-152

The Cayuga Indians Case, American and British Claims Arbitration, 1910

Continental Shelf Case, International Court of Justice

Module 3: The United Nations

February 27, 29

March 5, 7, 12, 14

Readings: Ian Hurd, International Organizations, chapters 3-4

Casebook: Non-Governmental Organizations, 228-234.

Casebook: International Law and the Use of Force, 443-466; 501-531

The Caroline Dispute

Louis Henkin, *Use of Force and U.S. Policy*

Terrorism, Humanitarian Intervention: pages 501-531

The UN and Atrocity Crimes and Preview

Canvas: UN Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes and Prevention (skim)

The UN and Conflict

Ukraine: <https://unric.org/en/the-un-and-the-war-in-ukraine-key-information/>

Israel-Gaza Crisis: <https://www.un.org/en/situation-in-occupied-palestine-and-israel>

The UN and Humanitarian Intervention and Peacekeeping

Readings in Canvas: Samantha Power, “Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen,” AND “A FORESEEABLE GENOCIDE: The Role of the French Government in Connection with the Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda.”

March 19, 21: Spring Break

March 26, 28

The UN and Humanitarian Intervention and Peacekeeping

Rwanda

Readings in Canvas: Samantha Power, “Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen”

“A FORESEEABLE GENOCIDE: The Role of the French Government in Connection with the Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda.” Skim.

“Report of the Independent Inquiry into the Actions of the United Nations during the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda,” pages 30-51. These are the pages in the document, not in the pdf window.

Module 4: International Courts and Tribunals: Dispute Resolution

April 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23

International Arbitration

Casebook, 247-252; 265-281

Mark Weston Janis, *The Alabama Arbitration*

The Rainbow Warrior Case, Case concerning the differences between New Zealand and France

International Court of Justice

Ian Hurd, Chapter 8

Casebook: 298-317; 321-339

The Diplomatic and Consular Staff Case, U.S. v. Iran

Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

International Criminal Courts

Ian Hurd, Chapter 9

Casebook: Human Rights, 580-593; 640-657

Nuremberg Judgment

Videos on Nuremberg and Japan; Cambodia

Casebook: 121-124; International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia

Prosecutor v. Furndzija; Prosecutor v. Tadic, Casebook: 545-550

Leila Sadat and S. Richard Carden, *The New International Criminal Court: An Uneasy Revolution*

Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2007 and 2012

Module 5: International Trade and Development

April 25, 30

May 2

Ian Hurd, chapters 5, 6 The World Trade Organization and the World Bank/IMF

Other readings to be assigned

Case: Argentina bonds case: Republic of Argentina v NML Capital (In Cavas)

Module 6: Regional Organization; The European Union

May 7, 9

Ian Hurd, Chapter 10: The European Union

Other readings to be assigned.