

PSCI 3183: INTERNATIONAL LAW
ONLINE
SPRING 2021

Professor: Megan Shannon

Office: 124 Ketchum

Email: Megan.L.Shannon@colorado.edu

Live class meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:10am - 10:00am (Zoom link available on Canvas)

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:15am - 11:45am in my Zoom personal meeting room (link available on Canvas)

Class Description

Does international law change how countries behave? If so, how? People have strong opinions about the effectiveness of international law. Some say that international law changes how countries act, and that countries will even do what's not in their interest so that they can honor international law. Others say that countries only act in their own interest, and that international law has little ability to meaningfully change how countries behave. Who's right? Grappling with questions about international law compels us to think about deeper questions of human nature and global society. Can individuals sometimes forgo their own interests to follow rules, norms, and principles that benefit humankind? Or, are we so self-interested that international cooperation is impossible?

This class introduces you to the study of international law. You will read legal decisions made by domestic and international courts and legal bodies. From these decisions and from class discussion, you will learn and understand the legal principles that govern global cooperation on issues such as human rights and the use of force. You will apply these principles to assess the legality of historical and ongoing events in the world. By semester's end, you will understand the power and limits of international law. You will also gain experience in reading legal decisions and understanding their implications for domestic and international politics.

This class will challenge you with some difficult questions, such as: is it legal for countries to ban headscarves to foster secularism and religious freedom? Must countries give individuals who have committed heinous crimes the right to meet with their local consulate or embassy? By continually grappling with challenging questions, this class will stretch your analytical abilities and ask you to confront your own moral and ethical code. You will emerge from this class a stronger thinker.

This class is being taught as a remote (online) class, and there are no in-person meetings. On Mondays and Wednesdays, class will occur synchronously (live) during the regularly scheduled class meeting time. Students are expected to attend and participate in the synchronous meetings. Many of the discussions will occur in small breakout sessions. On Fridays, we will not meet synchronously. Instead, students will view pre-recorded lectures and participate in discussion boards and questions on Canvas. Graded components of the class include two at-home written exams (a midterm and a final). The class also includes several short written papers. Finally, an international law simulation will take place over Zoom towards the end of the semester, and students will write a paper to prepare for the simulation.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this class, successful students will be able to:

- (1) Describe the different types of international law
- (2) Explain how international legal institutions operate
- (3) Analyze the implications of legal cases for international law and cooperation
- (4) Apply international legal principles to ongoing and historical world events
- (5) Evaluate the compliance of various countries with international law

Commitment to Inclusivity

The University of Colorado is a learning community that seeks to understand the world around us. CU cannot achieve those goals without the engagement of its undergraduate students. You have unique gifts, skills, and insights that advance our search for truth and knowledge. That means your participation in this class is valuable. My commitment is to make sure that you feel included enough in our class community to participate. If you feel your differences may isolate you from CU's community or if you need specific accommodations, please speak with me early in the semester about what we can do together to help you engage in our class and the CU community. This class stresses active learning and we have a great deal of discussion in small groups and as a class.

Required Materials

- Textbook: Epps, Valerie, John Cerone, and Brad Roth. 2019. International Law, 6th edition. Durham: Carolina Academic Press. ISBN: 978-1531013912.
- All other required readings are posted to Canvas.

Grades and Policies

Attendance, 5% of overall grade

Attendance will be taken during every live (synchronous) class meeting on Monday and Wednesday. For every recorded class meeting, attendance will be taken via the answers to the Canvas poll embedded in the video (the video will be posted on Fridays by 9:10am and the video quiz questions must be answered before 9:10am the following Monday). You will receive two free absences during the semester; after that, five percentage points from the attendance grade will be deducted from 100% for every class missed. For example, if you miss four classes during the semester, you will earn a 90% for your attendance grade. During the live class meetings on Zoom, I strongly encourage you to turn on your video camera as much as possible, as it promotes a sense of community.

Participation, 5% of overall grade

Your participation is highly valued in this class. Here are the ways you can earn participation credit.

- (1) Thoughtful and constructive engagement during live class meetings.
- (2) Asking questions during the live class meetings, verbally and via the class chat
- (3) Posting on your small group's discussion board
- (4) Commenting in a thoughtful way on a classmate's post on the small group's discussion board
- (5) Participating in the discussions for the recorded lectures

Three Legal Briefs, 20%

You will be responsible for carefully reading and briefing three legal cases. Your brief must be posted to the appropriate folder on Canvas by 9:00am the day of class. No late briefs will be accepted. The first two cases must be written briefs of around two pages. For the third brief,

you will have a choice of how you want to brief the case (written, video recording, powerpoint presentation, etc).

Midterm Writing Assignment, 15%

We have a writing assignment in the middle of the term that will help you understand the material. It is a typed written assignment to be taken at home. You will be able to use your class notes, case summaries, and textbook to write the assignment. It will be assigned on Friday, February 19th. You will have the opportunity to receive feedback on the written assignment and rewrite it for a higher grade.

Reading Quizzes on Canvas, top 8 grades, 10%

There will be approximately 11 quizzes posted on Canvas designed to help you understand the material before class. The quiz will be on a particular case or reading, it will be posted at least 48 hours in advance, and it is available until 9:00am the day of class. Once you begin the quiz, you have 30 minutes to complete it. You may take as many of the quizzes as you would like, and the top 8 quizzes will count towards your grade. You may use your book or notes when taking the quizzes.

International Moot Tribunal, 20%

We will simulate an international legal tribunal. Each student will represent a different actor in the simulation. To prepare for the simulation, you will research and write a paper. The paper accounts for 15% of your overall grade. The simulation also requires you to work with a group to draft legal arguments. Your participation in the group and the overall simulation accounts for 5% of your grade. Students who participate often in the moot tribunal, as well as represent the law accurately, earn higher grades for participation.

Final Examination, 25%

The final exam is comprehensive. It is a typed written exam to be taken at home. You will be able to use your class notes, case summaries, and textbook to write the exam. The final examination will be assigned on Wednesday, April 28 and is due Saturday, May 1 at 7:00pm.

Written Work Policy

Written work turned in late will be docked one letter grade for each day late, beginning at the end of class on the day the written work is due. The exception is case briefs, because no late case briefs are accepted.

Grading Scale

	B+ 89 - 87	C+ 79 - 77	D+ 69 - 67	
A 93 - 100	B 86 - 83	C 76 - 73	D 66 - 63	F 59 - 0
A- 92 - 90	B- 82 - 80	C- 72 - 70	D- 62 - 60	

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

The reading schedule will be modified as needed to reflect the pace of the course, so you'll want to check it frequently on Canvas. Readings may be added or subtracted. Complete the readings listed for each day before coming to class. When a chapter is assigned, you should read the content 'in between cases.' Then, you should thoroughly read the cases that are specifically listed and assigned. Skim the other cases unless otherwise noted.

Week 1: Introduction to International Law

- Friday, 1/15 (Live Class): Review Syllabus

Week 2: Introduction to International Law

- Monday, 1/18: No class
- Wednesday, 1/20 (Live Class): "McCann v United Kingdom" [Reading posted on Canvas]
- Friday, 1/22 (Recorded Class): Kerr, "How to Read a Legal Opinion" [Reading posted on Canvas] and Textbook, Ch 1

Week 3: Sources of International Law and Customary Law

- Monday, 1/25 (Live Class): "The Paquete Habana," pp 6-12 [Quiz available on Canvas until beginning of class]
- Wednesday, 1/27 (Live Class): "Abdullahi v Pfizer," pp 14-24 [Case Brief due]
- Friday, 1/29 (Recorded Class): Textbook, Ch 3, pp 71-103 and "North Sea Continental Shelf," pp 28-34

Week 4: Treaties

- Monday 2/1 (Live Class): "Reservations to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide," pp 75-82 [Quiz available on Canvas until beginning of class]
- Wednesday 2/3 (Live Class): "Avena and Other Mexican Nationals," pp 86-102 [Case Brief due]
- Friday 2/5 (Recorded Class): "Medellin v Texas" [Reading posted on Canvas]

Week 5: Relationship between International and Domestic Law

- Monday 2/8 (Live Class): Textbook, Ch 4, pp 129-174 and "United States v Bin Laden," pp 140-145 [Quiz available on Canvas until beginning of class]
- Wednesday 2/10 (Live Class): "Attorney General of the Government of Israel v Eichmann," pp 146-154 [Case Brief due]
- Friday, 2/12 (Recorded Class): "United States v Fawaz Yunis," pp 135-139 [Quiz available on Canvas until beginning of class]

Week 6: Legal Personality of Actors Under International Law

- Monday, 2/15 (Live Class): Textbook, Ch 7
- Wednesday, 2/17: No Class
- Friday, 2/19 (Recorded Class): "Reference regarding secession of Quebec," pp 339-350 [Case Brief due] and Midterm Writing Assignment given

Week 7: Legal Personality of Actors Under International Law continued

- Monday, 2/22 (Live Class): "Nottebohm (Liechtenstein v Guatemala)," pp 355-361 [Quiz available on Canvas until beginning of class]

- Wednesday, 2/24 (Live Class): “Reparations for Injuries Suffered in the Service of the United Nations,” pp 363-371 [Case Brief due]
- Friday, 2/26 (Recorded Class): Textbook, Ch 8

Week 8: Human Rights Law

- Monday, 3/1 (Live Class): “El Hagog v Libya,” pp 388-395 [Quiz available on Canvas until beginning of class]
- Wednesday, 3/3 (Live Class): “Llantoy Huaman v Peru,” pp 396-401 [Case Brief Due]
- Friday, 3/5 (Recorded Class): No additional reading

Week 9: Human Rights Law continued

- Monday, 3/8 (Live Class): “Atala Riffo and Daughters v Chile,” pp 440-455 [Quiz available on Canvas until beginning of class]
- Wednesday, 3/10 (Live Class): “Leyla Sahin v Turkey,” pp 410-431 [Case Brief due]
- Friday, 3/12 (Recorded Class): Textbook pp 497-502

Week 10: International Criminal Law

- Monday, 3/15 (Live Class): Rome Statute of International Criminal Court [Reading posted on Canvas] and “Prosecutor v Aloys Simba,” pp 578-586 [Quiz available on Canvas until beginning of class]
- Wednesday, 3/17 (Live Class): “Prosecutor v Drazen Erdemovic,” pp 554-571 [Case Brief due]
- Friday, 3/19 (Recorded Class): “Prosecutor v Akeysu” and Koomen, Jonneke, “Without These Women, the Tribunal Cannot Do Anything”

Week 11: International Law and the Use of Force

- Monday, 3/22 (Recorded Class): “Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons,” pp 592-617 [Quiz available on Canvas until beginning of class]
- Wednesday, 3/24 (Recorded Class): Textbook, Ch 10
- Friday, 3/26 (Recorded Class): No additional reading

Week 12: Peaceful Settlement of Disputes and International Law

- Monday, 3/29 (Live Class): “Norwegian Loans,” pp 481-484 [Quiz available on Canvas until beginning of class]
- Wednesday, 3/31 (Live Class): “Military and Paramilitary Activities in and against Nicaragua,” pp 512-521 [Case Brief due] and “Military and Paramilitary Activities in and against Nicaragua,” pp 532-539 [Case Brief due]
- Friday, 4/2 (Recorded Class): Textbook, Ch 9

Week 13: Peaceful Settlement of Disputes and International Law cont.; begin International Legal Tribunal Simulation

- Monday, 4/5 (Live Class): “ICJ Advisory opinion on the wall in Israel,” pp 126-127 [Quiz available on Canvas until beginning of class]
- Wednesday, 4/7 (Live Class): Tribunal simulation paper and roles assigned
- Friday, 4/9: Work on the simulation in small groups over Zoom

Week 14: International Legal Tribunal Simulation

- Monday, 4/12: Work on the simulation in small groups over Zoom

- Wednesday, 4/14 (Live Class): Applicant Team and Amicus Brief submitters present arguments
- Friday, 4/16 (Live Class): Respondent Team and Amicus brief submitters present arguments

Week 15: International Legal Tribunal Simulation

- Monday, 4/19 (Live Class): Questions from the Tribunal
- Wednesday, 4/21 (Live Class): Closing arguments
- Friday, 4/23: Regroup in small groups over Zoom; Simulation paper due

Week 16: Conclusion

- Monday, 4/26 (Live Class): Ruling from the Tribunal and debriefing
- Wednesday, April 28: Final exam is assigned and is due Saturday, May 1 at 7:00pm.

Other Course Policies

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the Honor Code Office website.

Attendance and Religious Observances

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Students should use their free absences from class to accommodate religious holidays. If you have any religious conflicts with scheduled exams in this class, please see me immediately. <https://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-absences-classes-or-exams>.

Classroom Behavior

You and I are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior at <https://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior>.

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to me in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website <https://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students>. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Medical Conditions under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment, and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of

our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, anonymous reporting, and the campus resources can be found on the OIEC website <https://www.colorado.edu/oiec/>. Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, stalking, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.