

POSI 4356

INTERNATIONAL LAW

FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Robert Gorman
rg06@txstate.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examines the nature, sources, and development of international law as both a legal and political process. The law of treaties, acquisition of personality, territorial jurisdiction, the law of the sea, land and air, diplomatic immunities, nationality, state responsibility, human rights, and the law of war will be emphasized. Students will research contemporary international problems and participate in a Moot International Court of Justice (ICJ) proceeding. (MC) (WI)

COURSE GOALS

After successfully completing this course, you should be able to

- explain how the international legal system is structured within the context of a sovereign state system and how this system compares to that of domestic legal orders;
- list the basic bodies of international law pertaining to interstate relations, including jurisdiction of territory and individuals, the laws of diplomatic practice, and the laws of war;
- discern the political contexts in which international law is made and enforced;
- read current events with an understanding of the international legal issues involved; and
- read and interpret international court cases and treaties.

COURSE MATERIALS

Malcolm N. Shaw, *International Law*. (7th ed.).(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014). ISBN 9781107612495

Please keep in mind that all materials should be purchased within thirty days of enrollment; after thirty days, materials may no longer be available for your course.

COURSE PROCEDURE

This course is arranged in six lessons and each contains a reading assignment from the Shaw textbook. Before you begin the assigned reading, go over the objectives list for each lesson and the introductory discussion in the course content, which will help set the context for the reading assignment, and which contains information that is addressed in the lessons and that will be subject to examination. Then do the assigned reading assigned in the Shaw text. Once you have done the reading, you may wish to reread the discussion section and then answer the written assignment questions and the application exercise. It is important to treat the introductory discussion section in each lesson with care, since these include information that is not always dealt with explicitly or developed as extensively in the textbook. Questions in the lessons will occasionally directly refer you back to the discussion section for information that is not found in the book, but it is essential that they be read with deliberation as the commentary found there will help to interpret a whole range of issues and questions dealt with in the text. Notice also the case summaries found at the end of each discussion section. These summaries address key points of law, concepts and legal principles that are developed in the case law, providing a summary of the facts, judgment and reasoning and some commentary on the importance of the

case. These, too, should be read with care. The Shaw text cites case law extensively, but often in a scattered way. The case summaries in each lesson are intended to give you a focused idea about the relevance and application of the cases to underlying legal principles.

ASSIGNMENTS, ASSESSMENTS, AND GRADING

Written Assignments

The written assignments count for 30% of your final grade, or 5% each. You must complete the first three assignments prior to taking the midcourse examination, and complete all written assignments before the final examination. Students are not allowed to waive any written assignments.

The written assignments consist of short answer and essay questions corresponding to the chapters read in each lesson. Following the short answer and essay section in each lesson is a brief application or research exercise that helps apply the concepts covered to actual issues and problems in international law. The application exercises will help you see how international treaties and court cases are interpreted, how governments use legal theories to justify their foreign policy actions, and how the facts of cases are related to international legal theories.

Exams

Mid-course Examination

The midcourse exam is a closed book exam and worth 30 points. You will be allowed two and a half hours to complete it. The exam consists of identify-and-define questions, short answer questions, and essay questions. Identify-and-define questions can usually be answered in a sentence or two. Short answer questions can be answered in a paragraph. Essay questions usually require two or more pages to answer comprehensively. Use your lessons as a guide to study for this examination.

Final Examination

The final is also a closed book exam. It is worth 40 points, and you will be allowed two and a half hours to complete it. Like the midcourse examination, the final exam consists of identify-and-define questions, short answer questions, and essay questions. The final exam will only cover subjects in Lessons 4, 5 and 6.

Important note: You must pass the mid-course and final exams to receive credit for this course. You also must submit all lessons prior to any exam before that exam can be administered.

Grading Criteria

Your course grade will be determined through the following point system:

Written Assignments: 30 points

Midcourse Exam: 30 points

Final Exam: 40 points

A - Excellent - 90-100 points

B - Good - 80-89 points

C - Average - 70-79 points

D - Poor - 60-69 points

F - Failure - 59 points and below

Again, you must pass the midcourse and final exams to receive credit for this course.

FREE ONLINE TUTORING

A variety of free tutoring resources are available for students enrolled in correspondence courses. All correspondence students have access to several hours of free online tutoring from [Smarthinking](#) for subjects ranging from grammar and writing to mathematics and Spanish. Free online tutoring for writing-related assignments is also available from the [Texas State Writing Center](#). For information on accessing these resources, please visit the Office of Distance and Extended Learning's [Free Tutoring](#) page. Currently-enrolled, degree-seeking students able to visit the Texas State campus are eligible for free in-person tutoring from the [Student Learning Assistance Center \(SLAC\)](#) on the fourth floor of Alkek Library and from the [Math Lab](#) in Derrick 233.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The [Office of Distance and Extended Learning](#) is committed to helping students with disabilities achieve their education goals. A disability is not a barrier to correspondence study, and we strive to provide reasonable and appropriate accommodations to individuals in coursework and test taking. Students who require special accommodations (e.g., testing accommodations, information in alternative format, sign language interpreting services) need to provide verification of their disability to the [Office of Disability Services](#) (<http://www.ods.txstate.edu/>), Suite 5-5.1 LBJ Student Center, (512) 245-3451 (voice/TTY) of any disability-related accommodation needs as soon as possible to avoid a delay in accommodations.

TRACS TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Texas State's Information Technology Assistance Center (ITAC) provides phone and LiveChat technical support for TRACS 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. To take advantage of these services, visit [ITAC online](#) or call 512.245.ITAC (4822). Note also that a number of online TRACS tutorials are available from [TRACS Facts](#).

Before beginning this online course, it is recommended that you review the minimum hardware and software requirements and other important information available on the ITS [Course Information page](#).

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE INFORMATION

As a correspondence studies student, it is your responsibility to be familiar with correspondence-related policies and services. To this end, I encourage you to review the [Correspondence Course Information \(.pdf\)](#) page as well as the [Correspondence Studies Student Handbook](#).

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

The [Texas State Academic Honor Code](#) applies to all Texas State students, including correspondence students. The Honor Code serves as an affirmation that the University demands the highest standards of integrity in all actions related to the academic community.