

**PS123A: The Politics of International Law**  
Course Syllabus  
Summer Session C 2017

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**Bunche 3360**

**Office Hours:** MW 11:30am-12:30pm and by appointment

**Course Time:** Monday and Wednesday 1-3:05pm

**Location:** Bunche 1209B

**Course Reader:** Megan West ([mwest11@ucla.edu](mailto:mwest11@ucla.edu))

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will blend legal and political science approaches to international law.

- We will survey the major principles, issue-areas, and institutions of international law, with a special focus on trade, human rights, and the interaction of foreign and domestic law.
- We will examine how politics affects the creation and development of international law, and the willingness of states to comply with and enforce law.

This is an upper-level course designed for juniors and seniors.

## **TEXTS**

Required text:

*Casebook on the Politics of International Law* --- available at the UCLA Bookstore. In print and electronic versions. A copy will be placed on reserve at Powell Library.

Other required readings:

Other required readings will be made available on the course website (<https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/171C-POLSCI123A-1>). These include book chapters, academic articles, and case studies.

## **GRADING**

Grade Components

Your grade in this course will be based on four components: attendance (10%), 3 quizzes (30%), a written assignment on human rights (20%) and a final exam (40%).

- **Attendance: 10%**

Attendance at all lectures is **required**. This is only a six-week course, which means we have limited time together. Missing one day is like missing one week of the regular quarter. Please try to schedule doctor's appointments, other meetings, internship obligations, etc. outside of class hours. Attendance will be taken at all lectures.

If you must miss lecture, you have the option of doing a make-up assignment so that the absence will be excused. The make-up assignment depends on the assigned reading for that day of lecture. If you miss a casebook day, you must answer all discussion questions at the end of the assigned case(s). If you miss a day with readings on the course website, you must write a 2-page (double-spaced) summary of the readings. Make-up assignments are due within two days (48 hours) after the missed lecture via email to the course reader. No absences will be excused without make-up assignments.

- **Quizzes (3): 30%**

In lieu of a midterm exam, Monday lecture in Weeks 2, 3, and 4 will begin with a 20-30 minute quiz. The quiz will be on the material from the previous week only (i.e., in Week 4, you will only be quizzed on material from Week 3). Material includes lecture, readings, and cases. The quizzes will either be weighted equally at 10% each, or the lowest score will be dropped and the remaining two will be weighted 15% each, whichever is more advantageous for the student. Because the lowest score is dropped, there will be no make-up quizzes.

- **Human Rights Assignment: 20%**

In Weeks 4-5, you will complete a take-home assignment related to human rights law in lieu of attending lecture on Monday, September 4 (Labor Day). This assignment will ask you to apply concepts of human rights law to hypothetical situations of human rights violations. This assignment is intended to proxy the kinds of exams you may encounter in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year law school classes. More information will be given in Week 4.

- **Final Exam: 40%**

The final exam will be during lecture on Wednesday, September 13. It will consist of short answer questions related to cases, readings, and lecture material from all six weeks. You will have the entire class time to complete the exam. The final exam is closed book. There will be no make-up exams, except in exceptional circumstances.

### Grade Disputes

If you wish to dispute a grade on a quiz or the writing assignment, you must submit a statement in writing within one week after the quiz/assignment is returned explaining why you believe your work deserves a higher grade. If you dispute a grade on an assignment, the entire assignment will be regraded. As a result, your grade may be raised, stay the same, or be lowered. If you simply want to understand what you can do

to improve, I'd be happy to help you in office hours. Once final grades have been submitted, I will only consider errors in processing.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

All UCLA students are bound by UCLA's Student Conduct Code, which is available at: <http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu>. As required by UCLA procedures, any suspected or alleged misconduct---including plagiarism and cheating---will be automatically reported to the Dean of Students.

If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, you should talk to me, the Office of the Dean of Students, and/or consult this handy document: <http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Portals/16/Documents/Syllabus.pdf>.

## **AVAILABILITY**

I am always available during office hours. If you can't come during that time, email me some alternate times that you are available to meet and we can schedule an appointment. Summer session moves even more quickly than the quarter system. As such, it is in your best interest to see me sooner rather than later if you are struggling with lecture or reading material. I am happy to help, but there is only one of me. If you wait until the last minute to ask for help, you will be competing with your classmates for my time.

## **EMAIL**

Email is the best way to contact me. I will respond to emails within 24 hours. If you do not receive a response within that time, please send me a new email because I may have missed yours. Note, however, that it may take me longer to respond to emails sent over the weekend, or odd hours in the night.

In general, I do not want to answer substantive/conceptual questions via email. If you have questions about the assigned reading or lecture material, it is best to see me in person.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

- **Emergencies.** In an emergency situation, please call UCPD by dialing 911 from an on-campus phone or (310) 825-1491. Anonymous Reporting Line: (310) 794-5824.
- **Title IX** prohibits gender discrimination, sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
  - If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, you can receive confidential support and advocacy at the CARE Advocacy Office for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Wooden Center West, [CAREadvocate@careprogram.ucla.edu](mailto:CAREadvocate@careprogram.ucla.edu), (310) 206-2465.

- You can also report sexual violence or sexual harassment directly to the University's Title IX Coordinator, 2241 Murphy Hall by emailing [titleix@conet.ucla.edu](mailto:titleix@conet.ucla.edu) or calling (310) 206-3417.
- Reports to law enforcement can be made to UCPD at (310) 825-1491.
- Please note that under University policy, all TAs and instructors are mandated **Title IX reporters**. As such, if we are informed of or witness sexual violence or harassment, we are required to report this to UCLA's Title IX coordinator. The coordinator is committed to maintaining anonymity of victims and so are we.
- **Report incidents of BIAS.** UCLA is committed to creating a community free from bias and intolerance. If you have experienced a hostile climate, please file a report at <http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Report-an-Incident-of-BIAS>.
- UCLA Students may contact the **College Academic Counseling office** for help with any academic concerns via <http://www.ugeducation.ucla.edu/counseling/contact-us.html>. Non-UCLA students should contact <http://www.summer.ucla.edu/>
- **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)** at UCLA offers a range of services including individual and group therapy, referrals, psychological testing, crisis consultation, and psychoeducational programs and workshops. CAPS is located at John Wooden Center West and can be reached at (310) 825-0768. Learn more at <http://www.counseling.ucla.edu>. If you need an immediate response after hours or on weekends please call UCLA CAPS 24-hour access line (310) 825-0768 or call the UCPD 24-hour dispatch line at (310) 825-1491 or dial 911 for your local police.
- **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities** If you wish to request an accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Center for Accessible Education (formerly called the Office for Students with Disabilities) as soon as possible at A255 Murphy Hall, (310) 825-1501 / TDD: (310) 206---6083. Website: <http://www.cae.ucla.edu/>
- **For many other summer session questions**, go to <http://www.summer.ucla.edu/>, choose "Academic Courses" under the Programs link in the top banner, and then find the category that applies to you on the right side of the page. Click on that, and then on "Important Resources" in the left column of the subsequent page. For questions about deadlines, see [www.summer.ucla.edu/calendar](http://www.summer.ucla.edu/calendar) or <http://www.summer.ucla.edu/academiccourses/UCLAstudent/registrationand enrollment>
- Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (**FERPA**), you have a right to know how you're doing in the course, but **it is a violation of university policy to discuss grades or any private information via email**, because legally, email is not private communication. Any discussion of your performance in the course, including your grade, must take place in person. If you wish to discuss course grades, I am available during office hours and by appointment, including in the fall quarter.

## TOPICS AND READINGS

### Week 1: Sources of Law and the International Court of Justice

#### *August 7*

- Dunoff, Jeffrey L., Steven R. Ratner, and David Wippman. (2015) *International Law: Understanding Process Through Problems*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. pgs. 33-66 (course website)
- Johns, Leslie. (2015) *Strengthening International Courts: The Hidden Costs of Legalization*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Chapter 2 (course website)

#### *August 9*

- *Nuclear Tests* (casebook)
- *North Sea* (casebook)

### Week 2: Diplomatic Law, Immunity, and Jurisdiction

#### *August 14*

- QUIZ 1
- Shaw, Malcolm. (2014) *International Law*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. pgs. 506-545 (course website)
- Brownlie, Ian. (2003) *Principles of Public International Law*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 17: "Diplomatic and Consular Relations" (course website)

#### *August 16*

- *Jurisdictional Immunities* (casebook)
- *Arrest Warrant* (casebook)

### Week 3: International Law and Domestic Politics

#### *August 21*

- QUIZ 2
- *Consular Relations* (casebook)
- "U.S. Strategy for Responding to ICJ's *Avena* Decision." (2005) *American Journal of International Law* 99: 489-492 (course website)

#### *August 23*

- *Foreign Practice and US Law* (casebook)
- *Iraq War Inquiry* (course website)
- *Prosecute or Extradite* (casebook)

## **Week 4: International Human Rights Law**

*August 28*

- **QUIZ 3**
- Moravcsik, Andrew. (2000) "The Origins of International Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in Postwar Europe." *International Organization* 54: 217-252. Read pages 217-243 only (course website)
- Creamer, Cosette, and Beth Simmons. (2015) "Ratification, Reporting, and Rights: Quality of Participation in the Convention Against Torture." *Human Rights Quarterly* 37(3) (course website)

*August 30*

- *Universal Periodic Review* (course website)
- *Manifesting Religion* (casebook)
- *Velasquez Rodriguez v. Honduras* (casebook)

## **Weeks 5-6: International Trade**

*September 4: Labor Day – NO CLASS*

- Work on Human Rights Assignment

*September 6*

- **Human Rights Assignment DUE**
- Milner, Helen V., B. Peter Rosendorff, and Edward D. Mansfield. (2004) "International Trade and Domestic Politics: The Domestic Sources of International Trade Agreements and Institutions." In *The Impact of International Law on International Cooperation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (course website)
- "Understanding the WTO: Settling Disputes" online at: [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/whatis\\_e/tif\\_e/disp1\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/disp1_e.htm)

*September 11*

- *US-Shrimp* (casebook)
- *GATT/WTO treatment standards* (casebook)

**FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, September 13, 1-3:05pm**