

## **International Law 4501/5501, Fall 2016**

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Office hours: Online

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This is an introductory course designed to familiarize students with the body of international law, its applicability, and the existing organs or arbitration and adjudication. The course examines the role of international courts, laws of war and peace, human rights law, migration law and the role of the individual in international law.

### **Outcomes and Goals:**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understand the structure of the international legal system;
- Classify types of international law;
- Identify the sources and subjects of international law;
- Demonstrate an understanding of several key areas of international law including the use of force and human rights;
- Assess the relationship between domestic institutions (including domestic courts) and international law.

### **Grading:**

A total of 1000 points will be available.

- Two exams worth 200 points each will consist of a short answer section (short, three to four sentence IDs) and essay questions.

- Six module summaries worth 50 points each will be worth a total of 300 points

-A research project (including a 3000 word research paper for undergraduates and a 4500 word research paper for graduate students) will be worth 300 points:

100 points will be distributed via an annotated bibliography due in Module 6

200 points will be possible with the term paper itself due in Module 8

### **Term research project:**

Undergraduate students will be required to write a 2600 to 3000 word term paper (graduate students will write a 3500 to 4000 word paper), which will account for 200 points (this is a formal writing assignment).

Papers must effectively cover the topic and they will be graded on content, material, research and analysis related to issues dealing with international law. They must be free of spelling and grammatical errors and employ proper research form, including references. Papers must be the original researched work of the student exclusively for this class, and must be submitted by the date outlined in the syllabus or they will receive no credit.

The paper is to be a formal research paper: thesis driven, with citations and a bibliography. *I have extremely high expectations on the quality of the paper and each of you should understand that grammatical and spelling errors, as well as poor organization, incorrect information, insufficient or poor sources, and unsupported theses will result in a reduced grade.* All papers should be *carefully* edited.

Also be forewarned: all papers will be evaluated using Turnitin. I will catch you if you plagiarize, and I will *fail you*.

**Annotated Bibliography (100 points):**

“An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (usually about 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.”

From “How to prepare an Annotated Bibliography” here:

<http://guides.library.cornell.edu/annotatedbibliography>

Each student must prepare an annotated bibliography containing at least 10 sources. Five of those sources MUST be academic research articles or books (not Wikipedia or time magazine, etc.). Each annotation will be worth 10 points.

For help identifying academic courses, try this: <http://study.com/academy/lesson/academic-sources-definition-examples-quiz.html>

**Module Summaries**

Summaries should consist of 700-800 words and should comprehensively summarize the main points of the readings for that module. Graduate students should write 1000-1200 words. Don't focus on “describing each tree”; rather, focus on drawing out the main points of the reading and bringing the readings, videos, and other materials together to discuss the overall themes of each module.

**Plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating:**

It is university policy that plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating are not allowed. Cheating is using information obtained in forbidden ways during an examination, including furnishing that information to another student. Cheating will result in a zero on the examination.

Fabrication is intentionally falsifying facts to support your conclusions. Fabrication will result in a failing grade on the assignment. Finally, plagiarism is “the purchase and use of ghost-written papers and reports, or incorporating into a report, term theme, research paper, or project, ideas and information obtained from another person without giving credit to the person from whom such information was obtained. Further, inclusion of the published or unpublished writings of another person without duly noting these sources according to normal scholarly procedures shall be considered plagiarism. The above definition of academic misconduct applies equally to improper use of electronic sources of information and opinion” (Faculty Handbook, State University of West Georgia, August 2004, page 75). If you copy and paste, or use someone else's words, I will *catch you* and you *will fail this class*.

Also be forewarned: all assignments including the term papers will be evaluated using Turnitin, which detects whether you have stolen another's words. I will catch you if you plagiarize, and I will *fail you*.

**Required texts:**

All required readings are found in the class.

## Class policies

Read the instructions in each module.

Ask course related questions in the discussion board called “Ask Your Professor,” not via email (unless it’s personal!). If it is personal (for example, grade or absence related), please use the class mail tool. Do not email me unless you cannot access the course. I will not respond to emailed questions about the class. ALL CLASS COMMUNICATION HAPPENS INSIDE THE CLASS.

## University Policies:

[http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common\\_Language\\_for\\_Course\\_Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf)

## Schedule of class activities

Below you will find the schedule of class activities. All activities and assignments in each module are due on the “due date”. Quizzes will close automatically after noon on each “due date”. Discussions will be closed manually at the same time. Drop boxes will cut off automatically as well.

### Late assignments are not accepted.

Begin Date	Due Date	Module	Assignments	Readings
Module 1 contains the syllabus and the “Ask Your Professor” discussion board. Please read the syllabus as soon as you have access to the class.				
August 15	September 3 Noon	Module 2:	Reading summary for Module 2	Chapters 1-3
September 3	September 17, Noon	Module 3	Reading summary for Module 3 Paper topic	Chapters 4-6
September 17	October 1, Noon	Module 4	Reading summary for Module 4	Chapters 7-9
October 1	October 15	Midterm (Module 5)	MIDTERM	
October 15	October 29, Noon	Module 6	Reading summary for Module 6	Chapters 10-12
October 29	November 12, Noon	Module 7	Reading summary for Module 7 Annotated Bibliography	Chapters 13-15
November 12	December 3, Noon	Module 8	Reading summary for Module 8 Term Paper	Chapters 16-18
December 3	December 10, Noon	Final (Module 9)	FINAL EXAM	