DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Advanced Topics in Law and Politics: International Law and International Organizations

Credit Weighting:

Pre-/Co-Requisites:

Restrictions: Antirequisite: This course was previously offered under the course codes POLS*4900*04 (in 2019) and POLS*3960 (in 2018).

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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GENERAL DETAILS

This course explores international law and international governance. The first part of the course consists of a series of lectures that cover the foundations (i.e., mechanics) of international law. Lectures cover such topics as the subjects of international law (i.e., juridical personality), the sources of international law (especially treaties and custom), the relationship between international law and national law (in both Common Law and Legal Code systems), claims to jurisdiction (e.g., the territorial principle and claims to universal jurisdiction), and the role of international courts (especially the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court).

As this foundation is established, students will increasingly be expected to apply these elements to the study of various international legal issues in a series of seminars. In 2022, the course will mainly apply these foundational matters to controversial issues associated with the laws of war (e.g., the use of voluntary human shields) as well as various maritime disputes (e.g., Canada's North-West Passage).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Classes are designed to achieve the following objectives. The foundational lectures are intended help students develop a basic understanding of how international law works. And the seminars are intended to give students the opportunity to apply their growing understanding of international law to specific legal issues.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Students will be graded on the basis of the following components:

- Legal Brief = 15%
- Writing Assignment = 25%
- Seminars and Seminar Participation = 30%
- Final Exam = 30%

REQUIRED READING

Phillip M. Saunders et al, Kindred's International Law: Chiefly as Interpreted and Applied in Canada, 9th Edition (Toronto: Emond Publishing, 2019) plus various e-journal articles.