

POL 344-4
Department of Political Science

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Spring 2009

Public International Law

Course Outline

This outline is also available at "<http://www.sfu.ca/politics>"

Prerequisite: Six lower division credits in political science or permission of the department.

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Description:

This course surveys the nature, sources, development and functions of international law. We explore based on theory and evidence the extent to which international legal rules, principles, norms and processes, provide a framework for the resolution of international disputes, and provide a basis for international cooperation in various issue-areas. The course adopts a broad approach that examines critically the relationship between law, politics and values in international relations. Prominent cases and adjudications in international law will be examined where necessary to acquaint students with the principles that underpin legal decisions and how those principles are interpreted and applied.

The course material is divided roughly into three parts. Part I provides an historical and theoretical survey of the nature, sources, and evolution of international law. The major concerns will be the juridical, political, and normative foundations of international legal customs, conventions, principles and norms and their varied forms of institutionalization. Part II examines some substantive rules of international law and the subject areas covered. Part III examines some contemporary issues and debates on the role of international law: the use of force; humanitarian law, intervention, and war crimes; human rights and self-determination; international political economy, development, and the environment; and issues of international ethics and justice.

Course Organization: A four-hour seminar each week

Required Text:

There are no specific required texts. A reading packet containing all the required readings is available for purchase. Copies of required readings are also on short-term-reserve in the library

Course Evaluation:

Research Proposal & Essay	35%	Final Exam	35%
Presentation	20%	Participation	10%

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