COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a broad overview of International Law. The academic goal is to prepare the student for a career in law, diplomacy, international agencies, international business and global citizenship. More importantly the aim is to empower the student to work with the concepts of global justice and the international rule of law.

Beginning with the customs and sources of international jurisprudence, the course introduces essential legal terminology and distinctions focusing on the lawful exercise of power by nations. The course examines international organizations and methods of dispute resolution, including the growing interest in arbitration. The course will also focus on human rights, global environmental law, law of the sea and other international legal issues.

COURSE FORMAT & SCHEDULE

This course closely follows the International Law textbook (below) which is divided into twelve units. Each week in the course will cover an average of one chapter of the International Law textbook, so please keep pace with the readings.

Week #1 – Chapter 1
Week #2 – Chapter 2 … (etc.)

REQUIRED TEXTS

ISBN 978-0-495-79719-7

**PLEASE NOTE:** Prof. Slomanson maintains a course website, which has many of the materials/cases cited in the text book. It does not have the textbook, but does have much of what else you will need for the course. It is located at: http://www.tjsl.edu/slomansonb/txtcesite.html

CLASS PARTICIPATION

For a truly interactive classroom experience it is essential that you attend class and have read the assignments beforehand. You are required to read the New York Times international & legal news.

Each student will be periodically assigned a case or cases to prepare for class from the class readings. More info on this as the semester unfolds.

EXAMS and PAPERS and GRADES

Exams: 2 - Mid-Term, and Final

Papers: One Term Paper, details below & to follow

Grades:
- 10% - Class participation
- 20% - Mid-Term
- 25% - Term Paper
- 15% - Oral Argument
- 30% - Final

NOTE: Graduate students need to consult with the instructor for additional requirements.

NOTE: There may be one or more unannounced “pop quizzes” based on both the course readings and current int’l issues with legal aspects in the media. Each of these will count for a total of 10% of the grade, and Term Paper and Final Exam percentages will be adjusted accordingly as needed.

TERM PAPER/CASE APPELLATE BRIEF/ORAL ARGUMENTS

This is 40% of your grade, and it is very important that it be great. The Term Paper is 25% of the final grade, and the Oral Argument each of you will give toward the end of the semester is 15%.

The purpose is to provide you with a publishable writing sample that you can attach to your resume or future job applications. It will give you powerful talking points to sell yourself and your particular perspectives on justice and international law.

The paper will be written in the manner of an appellate brief to an appropriate International Court or Federal Court of Appeals on a current case/topic of interest. Further details on the topic or topics will be forthcoming shortly.
**NOTE: International Studies Departmental Policy: Late Work**

The acceptance of late projects and subsequent penalties is subject to the International Studies Department policy. If unable to submit assigned work on time due to medical or serious family circumstances, prior to the due date of the paper the student must contact the professor promptly via email, office visit or telephone and provide a description of the circumstances (faculty confirmation receipt reply required). The professor’s decision based on merits of the request will be communicated to students via email.

*If an extension has not been granted by the professor, late work is subject to the following penalties:*

1) One letter grade (10 pts.) within the first 24-hour period, **which starts at the beginning of the class on the date due. This means 5:30 p.m. sharp.**

2) An additional letter grade for the period after 24 hours late and prior to the end of the seventh day late.

3) After a total of seven days late (including weekends), the required assignment will not be accepted and a "0" will be assigned for that assignment.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a representation of another person’s work as your own **(for example, directly quoting from another source without using quotation marks – quotation marks are a must!).** See the University of St. Thomas' Regulation on “Scholastic Dishonesty” for discussion and range of available penalties. Plagiarism will be punished to the maximum extent possible. If a student is found to have committed an act of scholastic dishonesty, I will recommend the most severe penalty.

**INT’L & LEGAL NEWS ON THE WEB**

**General Sources**

- New York Times [www.nyt.com](http://www.nyt.com)
- BBC [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)
- The Economist [www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)
- Financial Times [www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com)
- Washington Post [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)
- American Lawyer.com [www.law.com/jsp/law/international](http://www.law.com/jsp/law/international)
- Library of Congress Legal News [www.loc.gov/lawweb](http://www.loc.gov/lawweb)