Voyage: Summer 2014  
Discipline: Politics and International Relations  
SEMS 3500-101: Political Geography of the Oceans  
Upper Division  
Faculty Name: Robert W. Smith  
Credit Hours: 3; Contact Hours: 38

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the governance of the world’s oceans. National interests over the control of ocean space differ from country to country and in some situations these differences have led to conflict. The lectures focus on means by which countries have claimed sovereignty and exclusive jurisdiction off their coasts. The spatial impact these actions have on other maritime users will be analyzed with an emphasis on U.S. ocean policy and practice. The division of ocean space is analyzed from both a geographical and functional perspective. Geographically, each major type of maritime zone is discussed: baselines (which distinguish internal waters from the territorial sea), the territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone, continental shelf, and high seas. Functionally, primary ocean uses are examined, including fisheries, oil and gas development, deep seabed mining, navigation (commercial and military), and over flight. Special topics such marine scientific research, the Arctic and Antarctic regions, and marine environmental issues are addressed. Attention will be given to this semester’s trip itinerary when discussing the course topics.

The understanding and use of nautical charts as they pertain to national maritime claims and boundaries will be examined. And, it will be shown why in this day of satellite imagery and computers that charts may not always give the best answers. During the course, the students will have “hands on” opportunities to put into action several class topics, including maritime boundaries. Late in the course, following the lectures on maritime zones and the principles of maritime boundaries, the class will be divided into negotiating teams. A scenario will be given to both sides, defining their country’s interests, where the offshore resources are located, and other pertinent facts. After caucusing as a team, and developing their maritime boundary negotiating strategy, the teams will engage in “negotiating” a boundary with its neighbor bringing to the table knowledge learned in this course.

Grades will be based on tests (map quiz, mid-term and final exam), briefing memoranda (based on readings, field lab, and boundary negotiations), and class participation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this course will be to understand fully the law of the sea and the basis for countries to make claims to offshore jurisdiction and to appreciate the distinctions, both geographical and functional, of the various maritime zones. Studying the rights and responsibilities accorded to the coastal State and to the users of these maritime areas will be a key component to the class. Another objective of the course will be to hone writing skills to present succinct descriptive
and analytical briefing papers on the readings, class presentations, and exercises.

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

C-1: Introduction

A. Administrative details (grading system, assignments, briefing memos, exams, etc)
B. Course expectations and goals

Overview of the Geography of the Oceans
A. National interests: Domestic
B. National interests: International
C. Governance of the Oceans

The Chart

C-2: Library Briefing (Karen King)

Ocean Claims/Law of the Sea Conventions (1958 and 1960)

A. Terminology
B. History of Claims
C. Coastal State claims; creeping jurisdiction
D. Sources of law
E. Pre-1958 international law
F. 1958 Geneva Conventions
G. 1960 Convention

Readings: Text, Introduction 1-29

C-3: 1982 Law of the Sea Convention

A. The negotiations
B. The compromises
C. The provisions
D. U.S. interests
E. Current state of affairs

Readings: Text: Chapter 3 Internal waters 60-70;

Test No. 1 (Map quiz)

Memo 1: Roach_Smith article and Chapter 2: due C-5

Movie: Longitude

LISBON (21-24 June)
C-4 National interests and maritime zones- Part 1

Baselines
1. Normal
2. Straight
3. Archipelagic


C-5 National interests and maritime zones- Part 2

A. Historic Waters
B. Internal Waters
C. Territorial Sea
D. Contiguous Zone
E. Exclusive Economic Zone
F. Navigation Rights
   1. Innocent passage
   2. Transit rights
   3. Archipelagic sea lane passage
G. US- Freedom of navigation program

Readings: Text: Chapter 4 Territorial sea 71-101, Chapter 6 Archipelagoes 118- 131, Chapter 7 Contiguous Zone 132-140; Chapter 5, Straits 102-117 and Chapter 17, Military uses of the sea 421-432

Memo 1 due: critique of Roach_Smith article & chapter 2

BILBAO (27-30 June)

C-6 National Interests and the maritime zones- Part 3

A. The Continental Shelf (Part I)
   1. Physical
   2. Political/legal
   3. Resources
   4. Law of the sea provisions

B. The Continental Shelf (Part II)
   1. Commission on the Continental shelf
   2. Current submissions
   3. US interests
Readings: Text: Chapter 8 Continental Shelf 141-159, Chapter 9 Exclusive Economic Zone 160-180
Movie: Colliding Continents

C-7: World’s Fisheries

A. Patterns of Fisheries
B. Regional Issues
C. Highly Migratory Species
D. Anchovy and El Nino

Guest lecturer: Prof Abel

Readings: Text: Chapter 14 279-327

C-8: High Seas issues

Marine Scientific Research

Military Surveys

World Shipping

Readings: Text: Chapter 11 High Seas 203-222, Chapter 12 International Sea Bed, 223-253, Chapter 16, MSR, 400-420

Movie: John Harrison and his Timekeepers

Memo 2 on Roach Piracy article due C-10

C-9: Marine Environment

A. Coastal States vs. Maritime States
B. Marine Protected Areas
C. Role of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Regional Issues: Indian Ocean

Piracy


GLASGOW (5-8 July)
C-10: Discussion of Field Lab: July 10 (first day in Dublin)

Regional Issues: Caspian Sea

A. Political/Legal status
B. Resources
C. Bilateral vs. multilateral approach

Maritime Issues of the Mediterranean

A. Gibraltar
   --UK vs. Spain
   --Jurisdiction over offshore activities [sunken vessels]
B. Navigation rights thru international straits [Strait of Gibraltar]
C. Navigation management and the transportation of oil (Turkish Straits)
D. Maritime disputes
E. Aegean Sea

Turkish straits video


MEMO 2 due: critique of Roach Piracy article.

DUBLIN (10-13 July): Field Lab July 10—Dublin Port and Maritime Museum

C-11: Regional Issues: East Asian Seas

1. Maritime Security
2. Resources
3. Island disputes- Spratlys
4. Philippines vs. China arbitration

Movie: Disaster in Japan

C-12: Regional Issues: Atlantic Ocean, North Sea and Baltic Sea

A. Falkland Islands
B. Continental Shelf
C. Brazil’s oil industry
D. North Sea oil
E. Oil and the Environment
F. Russia and the Baltic

C-13: Polar Issues

A. Arctic
   1. Resources
   2. Navigation
   3. Climate change

B. Antarctica
   1. Resources
   2. Treaty
   3. Sovereignty disputes


BERGEN/OSLO (17-20 July)

C-14: Regional Issues: Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean

A. Small island States
B. Global warming
C. Enforcement issues
D. Regional fisheries

NO CLASS (22 July)

C-15 Test No. 2 (mid-term; on readings and lectures, thru class 13 and field lab)

ST. PETERSBURG (24-28 July)

C-16: Maritime Boundaries- 1

A. History
B. Principles
C. Opposite and Adjacent States
D. Islands

Readings: Text: Chapter 10 Maritime Boundaries 181-202

C-17: Maritime Boundaries- 2;

A. Developing a National Position
B. Joint Development Regimes
Maritime Boundary Exercise
   A. Explain boundary issues
   B. Create negotiating teams
   C. Allow time for negotiating teams to develop strategies

MEMO No. 3 DUE (Dublin Field lab)

STOCKHOLM (31 July- 3 August)

C-18 Maritime Boundaries- Negotiations

C-19 Maritime Boundary Negotiations (conclusion)
   Preparation of Agreement: Class discussion

HELSINKI (6-9 August)

C-20 Maritime Boundary Negotiations:
   Team presentations of the negotiations & results

Dispute Settlement Options: Maritime Boundaries
   A. North Sea Continental Shelf Cases
   B. U.S. experience- Gulf of Maine case
   C. Guyana – Suriname
   D. Black Sea case (Romania- Ukraine)
   E. Colombia- Nicaragua
   E. Bangladesh- Myanmar ; Bangladesh- India

Memo No. 4 due: (Boundary negotiation strategy and results)

C-21 Dispute Settlement: LOS Interpretation

   United States Ocean Laws and Policies & its Role in Global maritime affairs

GDANSK (12-15 August)

C-22: Marine Scientific Research: Part 2

Movie: Drain the Ocean

C-23: Next Decades for the World Order of the Oceans
   A. Emerging Issues
      --Manganese Nodules
      --High Seas (Biodiversity)
B. Coastal vs. Maritime States
C. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
D. U.S. interests vs. foreign interests


Conclusion of movie: Drain the Ocean

Wrap up

Final Exam

Field Lab

The day, July 10—the first day in port—will be spent first learning how the port of Dublin is managed and operated and how Dublin/ Ireland compete in the world’s shipping industry. The focus will be on the operations in general—the intermodal interface between ships and trucks, and on the use of containers. And, finally port security will be addressed. Following the briefing and tour of the port the class will continue to a pub/restaurant for a traditional Irish lunch. Then on to the National Maritime Museum in Dun Laoghaire which is housed in a former Mariner’s church. Here the class will be guided by a docent to review the rich Irish maritime history.

**Academic Objectives:**
1. To appreciate the operations of a major international port from managing arrivals and departures of products into and out of the port.
2. To understand what makes Dublin competitive in the international shipping industry and what issues, including security port managers face.
3. To view Irelands maritime heritage at the National Maritime Museum.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION**

The grades for this course will be determined by a total number of points the student accrues for various class activities. The specifics of the grading system will be fully explained on the first day of class. The following components will have certain points assigned to it and make up the final grade: Four written briefing memos covering readings, the field lab, and a hands-on boundary negotiation; three tests: (map quiz, mid-term, and final exam); and, class participation.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

AUTHOR:  R.R. Churchill and A.V. Lowe
TITLE:  The law of the sea
PUBLISHER:  Juris Publishing, Manchester, UK
RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

There will be several atlases on reserve for students to use as reference. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (found at: www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_convention.htm)

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HONOR CODE
Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University’s honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager’s Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: “On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment.” The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed “[signed].”