

## SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

**Voyage:** Spring 2018  
**Discipline:** Political Science  
**Course Number and Title:** POLS 431: International Law  
**Division:** Upper  
**Faculty Name:** J. Holmes Armstead, Jr.  
**Semester Credit Hours:** 3

**Prerequisites:** One (1) international relations course

Per professor: Prerequisite will be waived

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an overview of the international legal system, and a foundational understanding of the substance of international law. It will begin by exploring the nature and structure of the international legal system, and will provide an overview of the evolution of that system. It will then examine fundamental topics relating to the structure and operation of the international legal system, including the sources of international law, the subjects of international law, dispute settlement, and the relationship between international law and the municipal sphere. The course will then provide a survey of substantive areas of international law, including the regulation of the global commons, jurisdiction and immunities, international human rights law, international criminal law, and the law on the use of force. The format of the course will consist primarily of lectures, structured discussion, and role-playing activities.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Through active engagement, students will learn about the nature and function of international law, including how it is created, interpreted, and applied. They will also learn to critically examine these processes, with a view to understanding the intersection between and politics in the international system.

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

**AUTHOR:** Valerie Epps  
**TITLE:** International Law, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.  
**PUBLISHER:** Carolina Academic Press  
**ISBN #:** 978-1-61163-228-6

DATE/EDITION: 5<sup>th</sup> ed. / 2014

## TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Ensenada, Mexico – January 5

### **B1—January 8: Introduction to International Law**

Assignment: Identify one international legal issue that has been in the news recently, and be prepared to discuss it in class.

### **A2—January 10: What is International Law?**

Assignment: Epps, pp. 3 - 5

Honolulu, Hawaii – January 12

### **B3—January 13: The Sources of International Law – Custom**

Assignment: Epps, pp. 5 - 23

### **B4—January 15: The Sources of International Law – Treaties & General Principles**

Assignment: Epps, pp. 23 - 32

January 16—International Date Line crossing (Lost Day)

### **B5—January 18: The Sources of International Law – Simulation**

Assignment: Customary Law simulation packet

**No Class – January 19**

### **B6—January 21: The Law of State Responsibility**

Assignment: ILC Articles on State Responsibility

### **B7—January 23: The Law of Treaties**

Assignment: Epps, pp. 59 - 70

Kobe, Japan – January 24-28

### **B8—January 30: The Subjects of International Law – States**

Assignment: Epps, pp. 271 - 285

**Shanghai, China — January 31 - February 1**

**In-Transit — February 2-3**

**Hong Kong, SAR — February 4-5**

**B9—February 7: The Acquisition of Territorial Sovereignty**

Assignment: Epps, pp. 33 - 53

**Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam — February 8-13**

**B10—February 15: Statehood Simulation**

Assignment: Statehood Simulation packet

**No Class —February 16**

**B11—February 18: The Subjects of International Law - States**

Assignment: Epps, pp. 292 - 305

**Yangon, Myanmar — February 19-23**

**B12—February 25: Dispute Settlement I**

Assignment: Epps, pp. 383 - 393

**B13— February 27: Dispute Settlement II - ICJ jurisdiction**

Assignment: Epps, pp. 393 - 403

**Cochin, India — February 28 - March 5**

**No Class — March 7**

**B14—March 8: The Global Commons**

Assignment: Epps, pp. 54 - 58

**B15—March 10: The Law of the Sea**

Assignment: Epps, pp. 191 - 214

**Port Louis, Mauritius — March 11**

**B16—March 13: International Environmental Law**

Assignment: Epps, Chapter VI

**B17—March 15: The Use of Force I – Pre-Charter**

Assignment: Epps, pp. 409 - 413

**B18—March 17: The Use of Force II – The Charter Regime**

Assignment: Epps, pp. 413 – 426; 443 - 445

**Cape Town, South Africa – March 18-23**

**B19—March 25: International Humanitarian Law**

Assignment: Epps, pp. 445 – 465

**B20—March 27: International Human Rights I**

Assignment: Epps, pp. 309 – 330

**B21—March 29: International Human Rights II**

Assignment: Epps, pp. 330 – 354

**Tema, Ghana – March 30 - April 1**

**Takoradi, Ghana – April 2-3**

**B22—April 5: International Human Rights III – Simulation**

Assignment: Human Rights Simulation Packet

**B23—April 7: Finish Simulations**

Assignment: Prepare for any remaining simulations

**Study Day – April 8**

**B24— April 9: Review session**

Assignment: None

**Casablanca, Morocco – April 11-14**

**B25—April 16: Final Exam**

## Arrive Bremerhaven, Germany – April 19

### FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.

**Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class.** Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course, and are developed and led by the instructor.

### Field Class & Assignment

The Field Class for this course will take place on *Tuesday, April 3, in Tema, Ghana.*

Field Class description:

Students will examine law of the sea issues from the perspective of commerce and security.

### Independent Field Assignments

While in port, students should be watchful for issues that are subject to, or should be subject to, international legal regulation. Students will write reflection papers on the efficacy or feasibility of such regulation based on observations made in port.

## METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING SCALE

### GRADING SCALE

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Satisfactory/Poor</u>	<u>Failing</u>
97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	Less than 60%:
93-96%: A	83-86%: B	70-76%: C	
90-92%: A-	80-82%: B-	60-69%: D	

Grading will be based on preparation for and participation in class activities (30%) (including simulations and role plays), field assignments (20%), as well as a final exam (50%). Depending on the size of enrollment, students will participate in a series of simulations. All students are expected to participate in all simulations, alternating among different roles. Simulations will afford

participants the opportunity to immerse themselves in the legal and policy considerations of various stakeholders, from the perspectives of civil society organizations, government delegations, and international civil servants. Several simulation topics are listed in the course outline.

## **ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor's supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

## **LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS**

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from the student's home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations to [academic@isevoyages.org](mailto:academic@isevoyages.org) as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT CODE**

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

## **RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY**

None.

## **FILM REQUEST:**

None.

### **ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS**

Will be provided by instructor.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

None.