

## **IR 573: Introduction to Public International Law**

This course is an introduction to public international law for students of international relations. Emphasis throughout the course is both on the substantive rules of the law and on historical episodes that illustrate the various issues. By the end of the course, students should have a good understanding of the legal structures underpinning international relations.

Requirements for the course are a midterm exam (30%), a final exam (40%), and a paper (30%). The midterm exam is on March 4th, and the paper is due on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Papers handed in after this date will not be accepted. Students choose their paper topics in consultation with the instructor, and papers need to refer to the readings. Class attendance is mandatory and will be taken into account for calculating the final grade. If a student misses more than two lectures, the course grade will be taken down one level (i.e., from A to A-, or from B+ to B) for every lecture missed without a valid excuse, these being defined as religious holidays, medical problems, or personal tragedies. Cell phones are not allowed in class, neither are laptop computers.

Students are expected to do the readings of each week prior to the class for which they are listed. The readings include two textbooks and a number of other items. The textbooks are available for purchase and are David J. Bederman, *International Law Frameworks*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (New York: Foundation Press, 2010) and J. Martin Rochester, *Between Peril and Promise: The Politics of International Law*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Washington, DC: CG Press, 2006).

The instructor can be reached by telephone at 358 0193. Office hours are T. and Th. 2:00-3:00, or by appointment on Wednesday afternoons, and take place at 154 Bay State Road. No make-up exams will be given except in very exceptional circumstances – travel arrangements will not count as such.

Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity. You are expected to provide citations in papers for all quotations, paraphrases, and ideas taken from any source other than your own original thoughts. Boston University has very strict standards for intellectual integrity, and punishment for plagiarism is severe, and can include permanent expulsion from the university. For more on the definition of plagiarism and the standards to which you will be held, see the CAS Academic Conduct Code, available at <http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/> or the GRS Academic Conduct Code: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/forms-policies-procedures/academic-discipline-procedures/>

### **Schedule of Meetings**

January 20: The Origins of International Law  
January 22: The Nature of International Law

Bederman, chapters 1

January 27: The Sources of International Law and its Relation with Municipal Law

Bederman, chapters 2, 4, and 14.

Rochester, pp. 3-14, 44-64.

Mark Mozower, "An international civilization? Empire, internationalism and the crisis of the mid-twentieth century," *International Affairs* 82:3 (2006): 553-566.

January 29: States in International Law

January 30: Recognition in International Law

Bederman, chapters 5, 8.

Antonio Cassese, *International Law*, pp. 131-135.

Barry Bartmann, "Political Realities and Legal Anomalies: Revisiting the Politics of International Recognition," in Tozun Bahcheli, Barry Bartmann, and Henry Srebrenik, eds., *De Facto States: The Quest for Sovereignty* (London: Routledge, 2004), pp. 12-31.

February 4: Territorial Sovereignty

February 6: Borders

Bederman, chapters 7, 10, and 17.

Steven R. Ratner, "Drawing a Better Line: *Uti Possidetis* and the Borders of New States," in Robert J. Beck and Thomas Ambrosio, eds., *International Law and the Rise of Nations*.

Rochester, pp. 77-90

February 11: Treaties

February 13: No class or film

Bederman, chapters 3, 15.

February 18: Treaties, continued

February 20: International Organizations

Bederman, chapter 6.

Antonio Cassese, *International Law*, pp. 135-140.

February 25: The United Nations

February 27: The European Union

Antonio Cassese, *International Law*, chapter 16.

Rochester, pp. 41-43.

March 4: Midterm exam

March 6: The Laws of War

Bederman, chapters 18, 19, and 20.

Rochester, chapter 6.

March 18: The Law of the Sea

March 20: Continued, Air Space, and Antarctica

Bederman, chapter 11.

Rochester, pp. 90-103.

Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, *Power and Interdependence*, pp. 86-98.

March 25: The Peaceful Settlement of Disputes

March 27: The International Court of Justice

Bederman, chapter 21.

Rochester, pp. 64-70, 181-184

April 1: Self-Determination

April 3: Human Rights

Bederman, chapter 9.

Hurst Hannum, "Rethinking Self-Determination," in Robert J. Beck and Thomas Ambrosio, eds., *International Law and the Rise of Nations*.

Cassese, chapter 3, pp. 59-64; chapter 7, pp. 140-150; chapter 19.

Rochester, chapter 5.

April 8: Humanitarian Intervention and the International Criminal Court

April 10: Catch up with the Schedule

Antonio Cassese, *International Law*, chapter 21.

April 15: International Environmental Law

April 17: International Economic Law

Bederman, chapters 12 and 13.

Rochester, chapters 7 and 8.

April 22: Case Study: The Gulf Three Wars

April 24: No class

Ian Williams, "The Role of the United Nations," in Rick Fawn and Raymond Hinnebusch, eds., *The Iraq War: Causes and Consequences*.

Anthony F. Lang Jr. in Rick Fawn and Raymond Hinnebusch, eds., *The Iraq War: Causes and Consequences*.

Ove Bring and Per Broström, "The Iraq War and International Law," in Jan Hallenberg and Håkan Karlsson, *The Iraq War: European perspectives on politics, strategy and operations*.

April 29: Case Study: The Gulf Three Wars, continued

May 1: Review session and Evaluations

Rochester, Chapter 9.