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 3rd, and the paper is due on April 26th. 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 who need extra time for their exams need to inform the instructor within the first two weeks of classes.

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, 4th edition (New York: Foundation Press, 2016) and J. Martin Rochester, Between Peril and Promise: The Politics of International Law, 2nd 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 who need extra time for the exams need to inform the instructor within the first two weeks of the course.

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 19: The Origins of International Law

Bederman, chapter 1.

January 24: The Nature of International Law
January 26: The Sources of International Law and its Relation with Municipal Law

Bederman, chapters 2, 4, 17.
Rochester, pp. 3-14, 44-64.

January 31: States in International Law
February 2: States in International Law, continued

Bederman, chapter 6A.
Rochester, pp. 3-14, 44-64.

February 7: Recognition in International Law
February 9: Territorial Sovereignty

Bederman, chapters 6B and 6C, 7A, 11, 20A, 20C.

February 14: Borders
February 16: Treaties

Bederman, chapter 3.
Rochester, pp. 77-90

February 21: No class
February 23: Treaties, continued

Bederman, chapters 3, 18.
February 28: International Organizations
March 2: The United Nations System
   Bederman, chapters 8, 20B.
   Rochester, pp. 41-43.
   Antonio Cassese, *International Law*, pp. 135-140.

March 14: The European Union
March 16: Midterm exam

March 21: The Law of the Sea
March 33: The Law of the Sea Continued, Air Space, and Antarctica
   Bederman, chapter 12.
   Rochester, pp. 90-103.

March 28: The Peaceful Settlement of Disputes
March 30: The International Court of Justice
   Bederman, chapter 5.
   Rochester, pp. 64-70, 181-184

April 4: The Laws of War
April 6: The International Criminal Court
   Bederman, chapters 15, 16.
   Rochester, chapter 6.

April 11: Self-Determination
April 13: Human Rights
   Bederman, chapters 9 and 10.
   Hurst Hannum, “Rethinking Self-Determination,” in Robert J. Beck and Thomas
   Cassese, chapter 3, pp. 59-64; chapter 7, pp. 140-150; chapter 19.
   Rochester, chapter 5.

April 18: International Environmental Law
April 20: International Economic Law
   Bederman, chapters 13, 14.
   Rochester, chapters 7 and 8.
April 25: Case Study: The Gulf Three Wars
April 27: Case Study: The Gulf Three Wars, continued

Rochester, Chapter 9.

May 2: Final thoughts and evaluations