POLS 4333
International Law
Instructor: Dr. Sam Watson

Fall Semester 2011
Midwestern State University
Office: O’Donohoe 119
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5:30 – 8:20 p.m. T

Course Description

POLS 4333 is an advanced hour, undergraduate lecture course on the history, theories, sources, and enforcement of international law. Topics to be covered include treaties and customary international law; the significance of states and institutions; international dispute resolution; international law and the United States; immunity and the act of state doctrine; the allocation of legal authority among states; international human rights; the use of force and arms control; the law of the sea; the law of airspace, aviation, and outer space; international environmental law; and, international criminal law.

Course Goals

The primary goal of this course is for each student to become better informed about, more interested in, and more aware of the role law plays in international relations. The course seeks to demonstrate to students the important relationship between international law and politics within the existing world system.

Required Materials


Strongly Recommended Materials

1) A map of the world and a map of the United States.

Resource Materials

The University (Moffett) Library contains valuable resources which can aid students in their research and study for this course. In addition to many relevant books, a number of periodicals will be particularly useful (recent issues will be found on the current periodicals shelves; back issues are either bound or on microfilm/microfiche). A list of selected periodicals available in the library and local sources of broadcast media significant for political science research is attached to this syllabus.
Course Requirements

First Examination  September 27  20 percent
Second Examination  November 1  20 percent
Final Examination  December 6 (8-10 p.m.)  40 percent
Attendance  20 percent

The midterm and final examinations consist of a series of short answer questions. The second exam tests only the material covered since the first exam. The final exam, however, is cumulative.

In order to pass this class, a student must participate. Participation means coming to and preparing for class. Particular diligence needs to be paid to preparation of case briefs. Attendance will be checked by signature sheet.

Schedule of Assignments

8/23 – Introductory session
8/30 – Chapter 1
9/6 – Chapter 2
9/13 – Chapter 3
9/20 – Chapter 4
9/27 – First exam
10/4 – Chapter 5
10/11 – Chapter 6
10/18 – Chapter 7
10/25 – Chapter 8
11/1 – Second exam
11/8 – Chapter 9
11/15 – Chapter 10
11/22 – Chapter 11
11/29 – Chapter 12
12/6 – Final exam