

# BOR 6343 Seminar in International Law

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## Course Description

Introduces students to the principles and practices of international law and legal regimes. Examines traditional and emerging topics in the field: human rights, the Law of the Sea, the Law of Armed Conflict, War Crime Tribunals and the International Criminal Court.

## Course Textbook

*International Law, 6th Edition*

Author: Valerie Epps , John Cerone, & Brad Roth

Carolina Academic Press (August 1, 2019)

ISBN-10: 978-1531013912

ISBN-13: 1531013910

## Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

**Objective One:** To understand and appreciate the application of international law.

**Objective Two:** To grasp the various theoretical explanations for treaties, recognition of states, and governments.

**Objective Three:** To grasp the complexities international jurisdiction and its relationship to domestic jurisdiction.

**Objective Four:** To enhance critical thinking about international law, human rights, and international tribunals.

## Learning Outcomes:

As a student, you should be aware of what instructors are going to expect that you are to learn from a course, and how this learning will be measured. This course includes several learning outcomes that are measured both objectively and subjectively. When you complete this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain understanding and identify various terms, concepts of international law.
2. Be familiar with the formation of treaties, terms, and principles of enforcement, interpretation, and application of treaties.

3. Understand the rules of recognition of states, governments, organizations and individuals under international law.
4. Understand the theories of jurisdiction and the relationship of international and domestic jurisdiction, basic rules of immunity impacting international law, and the Act of State Doctrine.
5. Understand the obligation to settle disputes with respect to civil and criminal cases applicable to existing international courts and tribunals.
6. Be familiar with the jurisdiction and mission of existing international courts and tribunals.
7. Be familiar with the basic rules under international law recognizing the use of force.
8. Be familiar the application of international law with respect to human rights, and the organizational systems protecting human rights

One consistent skill which you will need in any future career is that of effective writing and the ability to clearly communicate your thoughts. Therefore, you will be assigned discussion boards that evaluate your ability to write clearly. Your instructor will grade your assignment on technical skills, such as clear organization, spelling and grammar usage, as well as a subjective assessment of whether or not you are able to think critically and analyze both sides of a legal or social issue.

## Grading Policies

The grades are based on participation in the discussion boards and completion of the final exam, 50% for the discussion boards and 50% for the final exam. There is only one (1) exam scheduled, the final exam. The final exam is due no later than Friday on the 8<sup>th</sup> week of class.

Assignment	Percent of Grade	Due
Participation in Discussion Board	40 %	Saturday, Weeks 1, 3, 5, 7
Writing Assignment #1	10 %	Saturday, Week 2
Writing Assignment #2	10 %	Saturday, Week 4
Writing Assignment #3	10 %	Saturday, Week 6

Angelo State University employs a letter grade system. Grades in this course are determined on a percentage scale:

A = 90 - 100%

B = 80 - 89%

C = 70 - 79%

D = 60 - 69%

F = 59% and below

## **Date and Time of Final Exam**

The final exam will be administered online through the Blackboard learning management system and is due no later than Friday on the 8<sup>th</sup> week of class.

## **Course Organization:**

This is an eight (8) week course. As such, there is limited time to finish the assigned readings and associated projects. Please keep this in mind as you schedule your work. The assignments are completed in eight (8) modules. You should complete one module each week.

**Lesson 1** The readings and outline provide a general overview of the formation of international law, basic terms, and principles of international law. The student will become familiar with the basic sources of international and the relationship of legal concepts with respect to international organizations and nation-states.

**Lesson 2** The readings and outline provide an overview of the formation of treaties, basic terms, and principles of enforcement, application of treaties. The student will become familiar with the concepts with respect to interpretation of treaties.

### **Lesson 3**

The outline is a review of recognition of states, governments, organizations and individuals under international law, focusing on recent developments since the Second World War.

**Lesson 4** The course materials are a review of theories of jurisdiction and the relationship of international and domestic jurisdiction, basic rules of immunity impacting international law, and the Act of State Doctrine.

### **Lesson 5** Peaceful Settlement of Disputes

The readings and instructor's outline is a review of resolving disputes both civil and criminal within international judicial bodies.

**Lesson 6 Use of Force Including War**

The readings and instructor's outline is an overview of the basic rules under international law recognizing the use of force.

**Lesson 7 Human Rights**

The readings and instructor's outline is an overview of the application of international law with respect to human rights, and the organizational systems protecting human rights.

**Lesson 8 Review for Final Exam and Final Exam**

There is no discussion board assignment. Use the study guide to prepare for the final, the assigned readings and instructor's notes are the sources you should consult for the exam.

**Office Hours and/or hours of outside-of class contact**

This is an online course, thus there are no set office hours. Refer to the Instructor Information section in the Blackboard course for details regarding the instructor's contact information.

**University Policies****Academic Integrity**

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university [Academic Honor Code](#) and the [ASU Student Handbook](#).

**Accommodations for Disability**

The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Life Office at (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at [Student.Life@angelo.edu](mailto:Student.Life@angelo.edu) to begin the process. The Student Life Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

**Student absence for religious holidays**

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.