

International Law, Law 753
Fall 2007
Professor Colin Picker

SYLLABUS

1. General Information

Class meets Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00 to 5:15 PM, Room 04

UMKC Law School Class **Attendance Policy** fully applicable

There will be a mandatory Library & Westlaw international law resources training session during the early part of the semester in the library. This training session will stand in for a later cancelled class. Attendance will be taken.

Office Hours are Mondays and Wednesday 9:30 to 10:30 or by appointment, Room 2-307

My office number is 5928, my e-mail is pickerc@umkc.edu

Readings assignments will be handed out periodically.

2. Materials

Janis & Noyes, International Law (3rd Edition, West 2006)

Additional material will be assigned from the Internet (Treaties, etc.) and Westlaw/Lexis.

3. Course Evaluation

70% based on a 4000 word (maximum - not including footnotes) research paper - "Present Day International Law Issues" (discussed below)

Two in-class quizzes – one half way through the semester, one in the last week of the semester, each worth 15% of the total grade.

I reserve the right to raise/lower one or more letter grades (e.g. B to B+, B to B- or C+) for good/bad participation. Typically students that keep on top of the reading will not experience a grade reduction.

4. Rough/Draft Course Outline

- A. The Nature of International Law
- B. Treaties
- C. Customary International Law
- D. International law in the Domestic Context
- E. The World Court
- F. Individuals and International Law
- G. States and International Law
- H. International Organizations and International Law
- I. Use of Force
- J. The Law of the Sea
- K. Present Day International Law Issues

5. Present Day International Law Issues Papers and Presentations

Students will investigate and research an issue facing international law today. They will then draft a paper of 4000 words or less (footnotes not included).

Research and investigative techniques will be discussed early in the semester during class, and then students will choose their issue. Examples of pertinent issues include, but are not limited to, the following:

The International Criminal Court/World Court
Afghanistan/The Middle East/Iraq/Iran
Cyberspace/Technology
Nuclear Proliferation/Weapons/Landmines, etc.
International Environmental Law
Law of War/Geneva Conventions/Hague Conventions
Human Rights
Border Disputes

As examples, I will make available copies of the previous year's best papers.

One draft may be submitted for review (electronically and by hard copy) during the day of Monday November 5th and at no other time.

During the semester students will be asked to submit a description of the subject to be covered, a thesis, a list of sources, and an outline. Failure to submit these requirements at the scheduled time may result in reduction of the class grade.

Final papers are due electronically Monday December 3rd by noon, and in paper-form Tuesday December 4th by noon.

5 minute presentations on student's research, not graded, will take place the final week of class with the expectation that final papers will reflect any comments at that time.