

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
POLS-3640-01/H01 International Law  
3 CREDIT HOURS, Fall 2023

Dr. Emmanuel Uwalaka

MW 3:1

- Foundation Press, CA. (Required)
- B. Rochester, J. Martin. 2012. *Between Peril and Promise: The Politics of International Law*. Los Angeles, Sage. (Required) A copy at Pius Library Reserve Desk

**Additional reading assignments will be placed in the reserve collection of the University library.**

**Note: This syllabus is subject to revision when necessary.**

#### **IV. CLASS ATTENDANCE**

1. Students are required to attend class sessions regularly and punctually.
2. Students are required to sign the roll at each session and a record of attendance will be maintained.
3. Students will be expected to complete assigned readings before coming to class and participate constructively in class discussions. During class, **cell phones must be turned off or vibrate mode**. If you need to respond to a call, please step outside the room.
4. This instructor allows only two unexcused and undocumented class absences after which a student must provide documentation or explanation for being absent from class. Failure to do this will affect points for class participation.

#### **EVALUATION**

##### **A. Methods**

Midterm and final examinations, two short papers, one on a class discussion topic, a reflection paper, and class participation will be used in evaluating the performance of students. Dates for submission of short papers are on the syllabus. There is a deduction of two points each day a paper is not turned in at due date. Expectations on the short papers will be discussed in class.

1. There will be Midterm and Final Examinations.
2. Students are required to take all examinations as scheduled. Exams are primarily essays. Exams are not cumulative, that is, only the material since the last exam is included.
4. Class participation includes but not limited to class attendance, constructive engagement during lectures, for example, asking and answering questions, respect of other students' perspectives, "rightful" use of computers and cell phones, etc.

##### **B. GRADING SCALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF Points**

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|----|----------------------|---------|
| 1. | Mid-term Examination | 35      |
| 2. | Final Examination    | 35      |
| 3. | Two Short Papers     | 10 each |
| 3. | Class Participation  | 10      |

The numerical equivalents of letter grades are:

93-100 = A  
90-92 = A-  
87-89 = B+  
Below 60 = F

83-86 = B  
80-82 = B-    73-76 = C  
77-79 = C+    60-69 = D

NOTE:        Final grades will not be changed unless there is an error in computation.

## **Fall 2023 College of Arts & Sciences Policies**

### **Academic Integrity**

*Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The*





Upon request to and approval by the Dean of Students Office, students shall be given up to five (5) consecutive days (not including weekends or holidays) of excused absence for bereavement.

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Instructor will record your presence (online) for class from time to time. Students will be expected to complete assigned re

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## OFFICE VISITS

Students are encouraged to visit the instructor during office hours in connection with their work in this class, or to discuss any career-related problems. If unable to visit during posted hours, an appointment will be made convenient to both the student and the instructor.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU GET TO KNOW YOUR TEACHERS AND TO MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN TO THEM. IT IS THE ONLY WAY TEACHERS CAN BE OF HELP TO YOU OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM.

## COURSE EVALUATION

As part of class participation, during the last week of the semester students will be reminded to complete an on-line course evaluation. Students will be notified when screens will be accessible for students to submit the evaluation.

## COURSE OUTLINE

- Aug. 23**      **Course Overview**  
What is international law? – A body of rules and norms regulating  
Interactions among states
- Aug. 28, 30**   **Historical Development**  
**Sep. 6**        Early Development of International Law  
From the Law of Nature to the Law of Nations  
Impact of Westphalia (1648)  
The Nineteenth Century  
Ohlin, Jens 1-10  
Rochester, 52-54  
Study Questions:  
1. The authority of a state to govern matters within its own borders free  
From external interference is known as?  
2. What do you understand by the concept of The Westphalian State  
system?
- Sept. 11, 13**   **Sources of International Law**  
Custom  
Ohlin, Jens, 33-59  
Jus Cogens and Other Sources  
Ohlin, 59-71  
Rochester, 52-59  
Study Questions:  
1. What are the two traditional sources of international law?  
2. What is The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties?  
3. The “adoption” of a treaty means that states have?  
4. The two roles of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) are to?

Treaties, Ohlin, 75-101  
Rochester, 54-59

Case: Foster v. Neilson  
Ohlin, 101-103  
Termination and Modification of Treaties  
Ohlin, 122-126

**Oct. 9, 11, 16**     **Visions of International Politics**

Realism  
Idealism  
Constructivism, and  
Other schools  
Rochester, Chap. 2

**Oct. 18**     **MID TERM EXAMINATION**

**Oct. 23, 25**     **Presentation: International Law steering from customs began with the European countries sharing the same culture and religion. The question, then, is why emergent states in Africa and Asia accept international law based on custom? Each student will have not more than six minutes for an individual presentation.**

**Subjects of International Law**

**Oct. 30, Nov. 1**     **States:** Attributes as an international legal personality  
Ohlin, 131-160

**Oct. 30`**     **Turn in a short paper not more than four pages (Honors students not more than 7 pages) -text only on the Oct. 23, 25 presentations.**

**Nov. 6, 8**     **States (cont'd)**  
Secession  
Recognition of Foreign Governments  
Con



Multiple nationalities  
Statelessness  
Nationality of other entities  
Lecture notes

**Nov. 22      Thanksgiving Breal**

**Nov. 27, 29    Compliance and Enforcement of International Law**

Readings: Ohlin, 325-361

Rochester, 58-64

Study Questions:

1. Why do States obey international law?
2. How are international law enforced?
3. What is the difference between municipal law and international law?

**Dec. 4      Is International Law Really Law or a Charade?**

The breaking of international law: How is the law enforced?

The adjudicating of international law: Who are the judges?

Rochester, 1-48

**Dec. 6      FINALS REVIEW**

**Submit your reflection paper- hardcopy in class.**

**Dec. 11      FINAL EXAMINATION 2-3:50 PM**