

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 4850: INTERNATIONAL LAW
WINTER 2010
PROFESSOR ROCHESTER**



What does international law have to say about Bin Laden and terrorism?

What happens if a Frenchman kills a pole on a ship owned by a Canadian flying the Panamanian flag in U.S. territorial waters? Who has jurisdiction? What about a murder or theft committed in U.S. airspace? Outer space?

What happens if an American is stoned in Iran for drinking alcohol, or is pulled off the road in Nigeria by the police and fined for having an “unroadworthy vehicle,” or is jailed in Malaysia for marijuana possession, or is caned in Singapore for spray-painting a building, or is arrested in China for fomenting rebellion? Do you have any legal leg to stand on? do you have any rights as an American? Do you have any human rights?

What happens if you have an agreement to export computers or some other commodity to a foreign country, and the contract is violated? What is your court of first and last resort?

What happens if North Korea, Iran, or some other country violates a treaty such as the nuclear nonproliferation treaty?

Where does international law come from, how is it made and enforced, and what impact does it have on you? If, as some cynics say, it is a joke, then why do multinational corporations and foreign ministries employ hundreds of international lawyers?

How is international law likely to evolve in the post-cold war era?

FOR THE ANSWER TO THESE AND MANY OTHER QUESTIONS THAT YOU MAY BE CURIOUS ABOUT, OR MAY DIRECTLY FACE, IN OUR INCREASINGLY INTERDEPENDENT WORLD, CONSIDER TAKING PS 4850!

The contemporary international system is in ferment, old relations yielding to new ones. Compared with the very recent past, the beginning of the 21st century is posing new challenges and problems. No less than the international economic system or international political system, the international legal system is suffering the shocks of our time. Unlike the others, however, the legal system is also the framework within which other problems are debated and resolved. This course is an introduction to the complexities of the international legal system and, through the prism of this system, an introduction to the complexities of international order.

The objectives of the course are essentially twofold: (1) to convey information about international legal institutions and the body of international law itself (e.g., the rules governing the uses of the oceans, expropriation of property, use of armed force, prisoners of war), and (2) to provide understanding of the role of international law in affecting relationships among states and individuals, and its connection to international politics. Students will be presented with a fictitious case (The Great Tuna Boat Chase and Massacre Case) and will participate in a moot court proceeding before the World Court.

COURSE FULFILLS THE BUSINESS SCHOOL GLOBAL AWARENESS REQUIREMENT.