



Topics in Politics: International Law

PSCI 190

Instructor	Professor Mary M. McCarthy
E-mail	mary.mccarthy@drake.edu
Course Meeting Days and Time	TuTh 11-12:15
Required Experiential Learning Dates	Tour of UK Parliament, London (Friday date TBC)
Office Hours	By appointment

Catalog Description:

This course examines the extent to which international law governs interactions among states in contemporary world politics. We will explore the fundamental principles of international law and their possible evolution in recent decades as a result of growing support for new international legal norms such as human rights. This course will develop students' abilities to identify and apply international legal principles with regard to current issues and events in global politics. We also will investigate contending cultural, ideological, and political perspectives on global legal issues.

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit.

Course Learning Objectives:

- To develop students' ability to identify and apply international legal principles relevant to current issues and events in global politics.
- To examine contending cultural, ideological, and political perspectives on global legal issues.
- To develop skills in analytical reasoning.
- To help students develop and improve their writing skills, with an emphasis on writing with precision, clarity, and logical coherence.

Methods of Instructions:

Class sessions will combine mini-lectures, full-class and small-group discussions, and student presentations.

Students will be evaluated by class attendance and participation (25%), reading questions (1% each, 12% total), "international law in the news" assignment (13%), midterm (25%), and final (25%).

Textbooks and Required Reading:

Nicole Scicluna, *The Politics of International Law* (Oxford University Press, 2021). (Paperback ISBN 13: 978-0198791201)

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Course Schedule:

Part I: Introduction (Weeks 1-2)

Introduction and Class Norms

What is International Law and Why Does it Matter for International Relations?

Scicluna: pp. 1-26 (Chapter 1)

Part II: Law, Politics, and Power in the International System (Weeks 3-6)

International Law and International Relations Theory

Scicluna: pp. 27-47 (Chapter 2)

Locating Law in the International System

Scicluna: pp. 48-68 (Chapter 3)

International Organizations, States, and Global Governance

Scicluna: pp. 69-90 (Chapter 4)

Compliance and Enforcement in International Law

Scicluna: pp. 91-120 (Chapter 5)

**Midterm Take-home Essay Due* (week 7)*

Midterm Break October 18-27

Part III: The Politics of International Law: Cases and Controversies (Weeks 9-14)

Global Environmental Governance and Climate Change

Scicluna: pp. 121-144 (Chapter 6)

Global Economic and Trade Governance

Scicluna: pp. 145-168 (Chapter 7)

Human Rights in the Postwar Period

Scicluna: pp. 169-191 (Chapter 8)

States, Nations, and Colonies: The Law and Politics of Self-Determination

Scicluna: pp. 192-218 (Chapter 9)

International Law and the Use of Force

War and Law in the Twenty-First Century: New Threats and New Approaches

Scicluna: pp. 219-246, 267-286 (Chapters 10 & 12)

International Humanitarian Law

Scicluna: pp. 247-266 (Chapter 11)

International Criminal Justice: From Nuremberg to the International Criminal Court



The Politics of International Law: Continuity and Change

Scicluna: pp. 287-327 (Chapters 13 & 14)

Final Take-home Essay Due (week 15)

Important Notes:

1. Students will be required to attend an experiential learning day in London on a Friday (date TBC) during the semester.
2. All readings must be completed before the class session during which that topic will be discussed. Reading Questions for each chapter are also due at that time.
3. The professor reserves the right to make any changes to this schedule as necessary.

Grading Criteria:

Class Attendance and Participation (25%)

Students are required to come to every class session prepared to make active, high-quality contributions to our class discussion.

High-quality contributions:

- illustrate knowledge and understanding of the assigned readings through specific references to author arguments and evidence
- show reflective reading of the texts and engagement with course material through insightful arguments inspired by the readings and other assignments
- include original and thoughtful arguments or comments in response to lectures, discussions, videos, etc.

Reading Questions (1% each, 12% total)

In order to help students prepare for class, questions about each session's reading will be posted on Blackboard (BB).

International Law in the News (13%)

To help students to continuously connect what we are learning in class with what is happening in the "real world," you will be finding news articles that provide case studies or reports relevant to the week's reading topics. Each student will sign up for one week during which they will find a news story, create a summary explaining what the news story is and how it connects to that week's topic and reading, post that summary and link on the "International Law in the News" discussion board, and then present on their topic in class.

Midterm (25%)

The midterm will be a take-home exam, made available in week 6 and due week 7.

Final (25%)

The final will be a take-home exam, made available in week 14 and due week 15.



Grading Policy Regarding Late Assignments

There will be no credit for late Reading Questions or International Law in the News assignments, with the exception of illness or emergency, in which case partial credit may be granted. All late take-home exams will receive a grade reduction. There will be a one-third grade reduction for every day the exam is late. In other words, A becomes A-, A- becomes B+, etc.

Grading Policy

This course will adopt a +/- scale. If you have questions about grading in this course, speak with the instructor.

Course Grade Breakdown

94-100	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
60-69	D
Below 60	F

Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Experience Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendation supporting such a request. In the event of long-term illness, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow a student to complete a course. In these cases, the Dean will need to approve the long term nature of the accommodation.

The Dean of Harlaxton College has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

Policy Governing Unexcused Absences:

Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses which meet three times a week, students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted, and for courses meeting once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty.



For this course, the penalty for each unexcused absence exceeding three is a third-letter grade reduction (A- to B+).

Policy Governing Excused Absences.

- Excused absences are not given to facilitate student travel independent of College-sponsored travel.
- Students may be permitted to miss class because of participation in academic field trips.
- Instructors must co-ordinate and confirm academic fieldtrips with the Dean, prior to the commencement of the Semester to ensure their inclusion in the Semester timetable.

- Where authorization for an academic fieldtrip is requested after the commencement of the semester, the request must be submitted to the Dean.

The following information is required:

- Purpose and brief description of the official Harlaxton event or academic fieldtrip.
- Dates, location, and times (as applicable).
- Alphabetical list of students involved [Last Name/First Name] along with their student identification number.

If approval is granted:

- Instructors affected will be notified at least one week prior to the class period during which absence is anticipated, or as soon as possible.
- Missed class time due to student participation is to be considered an excused absence.
- The grade of a student may not be lowered in any class due to excused absences.
- It is the student's responsibility - to take the initiative by consulting with their instructors before the absence occurs, and - to do what is required by the instructor to make up all missed assignments and/or examinations.
- Instructors are required to assist students in these occasional situations of excused absences.

Honor Code:

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*

AI may be used only with prior permission or direction by the instructor.

- All work submitted in this course must be your own.
- The use of generative AI composition tools, such as those offered by ChatGPT, Google Bard etc. is prohibited in this course except for specific assignments and subject to the instructor's guidelines.
- Work generated by such tools without proper attribution is plagiarism and, thereby, a breach of the University's Plagiarism and Academic Honesty policy.

Disability Policy:

It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services within the Office of Counseling Services by calling 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

The University of Evansville Disability Services office will share the request for academic accommodations with the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College. Staff members at Harlaxton will meet individually with students to discuss needs and provide additional information related to examinations or other assessments.



Students from partner institutions should provide the appropriate letter of accommodation from their institution to the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College.



Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole.

Prohibited Conduct and Confidentiality

The University of Evansville is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and discrimination. This commitment includes identifying problems that may lead to sexual harassment and misconduct, as well as other forms of harassment and discrimination, by creating an atmosphere in which the entire University community is sensitive to preventing prohibited conduct. Additionally, the University is committed to providing support and resources to individuals who have experienced prohibited conduct. This commitment includes effectively responding when a student, visitor, guest or program participant is the victim of prohibited conduct.

All campus employees, students, and guests are required to abide by the Title IX and Other Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Harassment and Discrimination Policy, and the Consensual Sexual or Romantic Relationships Between Employees and Students Policy. Violation of these policies could result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion for students and termination for employees.

Faculty members at the University of Evansville are considered “Responsible Employees” under the applicable federal guidelines and the University’s policies. This means that I am unable to offer you confidentiality if you report any incidence of prohibited conduct to me as defined by Title IX statute. If I am made aware of a violation, I am required to report any known information to the Office of Institutional Equity.

You may choose to report the violation yourself the following ways:

Email: · Annie Sills, Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator: cs175@evansville.edu ·

Keith Gehlhausen, Executive Director of HR and Institutional Equity: kg77@evansville.edu ·

Title IX: titleix@evansville.edu

Phone: 812-288-5261

Online: <https://www.evansville.edu/safety/report.cfm>

You may also choose to speak with a Confidential Resource. Confidential Resources are required to maintain confidentiality and cannot report violations to the Office of Institutional Equity:

University of Evansville

- Counseling Services: counselingservices@evansville.edu, 812-488-2633
- Health Center Professionals: healthcenter@evansville.edu, 812-488-2033
- University Chaplain: chaplain@evansville.edu, 812-488-5262

Harlaxton College

- College Nurse: Lesley Selby, RGN, +44 01476 403027, lseyby@harlaxton.ac.uk
- Counselling Services: counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk

