

**INTERNATIONAL LAW 558**  
**PROFESSOR CINDY G. BUYS**  
**Fall 2020**

**Class Meeting Place and Times:** Room 204  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 1-2:15 p.m.

**Contact Info:** Office 238

Office phone: 453-8743

E-mail: [cbuys@siu.edu](mailto:cbuys@siu.edu)

Virtual Office Hours: MW 2:30-3:30 p.m. or by appointment (email is the best way to set up an appointment by phone or Zoom). I can also stay after class to answer questions.

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course introduces students to the field of international law. While international law is traditionally thought of as governing interactions between sovereign nation-states, increasingly it has come to involve and affect private persons, corporations, and non-governmental organizations as well. By the time you have completed this course, you should:

1. Be able to identify the primary sources of international law;
2. Understand how international law is developed, implemented, and enforced;
3. Be able to construct a persuasive legal argument using those international law sources;
4. Be familiar with many of the primary international legal rules and actors;
5. Be familiar with several international courts and tribunals and their work;
6. Understand how international law is incorporated into U.S. law; and
7. Understand some of the political or policy considerations that drive the development of international law (or lack thereof) and the behavior of nation-states and other international actors.

One of the most interesting and exciting aspects of international law is that it is constantly evolving and expanding. For virtually every field of domestic law, there is a corresponding body of international law. Thus, the breadth of the field is unparalleled. Because the entire scope of international law is beyond this introductory course, we will choose a few specialty areas within international law, such as regional human rights law, the law of the sea, or the law of war, to study towards the end of the course. I will be seeking your input regarding which specialty areas you would like to study.

While learning international law can be challenging, I hope you will join me in viewing international law as an exciting practice area, which is growing in importance and which allows for a tremendous amount of creative lawyering.

**Required Reading:**

Most of the reading assignments for this course will be drawn from Janis, Noyes & Sadat, *INTERNATIONAL LAW: CASES AND COMMENTARY* (West 6th ed. 2020) [hereinafter Janis]. Other reading assignments may be posted on the class TWEN page. In addition, I may ask you to find some materials on the Internet.

The reading assignment for the first day of class is Chapter One of the Janis book. All reading assignments will be distributed and/or posted on TWEN at appropriate times.

**Class Attendance and Preparation:**

You are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and to be on time. Being present on time demonstrates respect for the professor and your classmates. If for some unavoidable reason you are late to class, you will be asked to sing a short song, recite a poem, or contribute \$.50 towards an end-of-the-semester snack.

Absences in excess of six (6) classes will be dealt with in accordance with the law school rules and are likely to result in a grade reduction or withdrawal from the course. I will take attendance each day and submit my records to my assistant. You are responsible for keeping track of your absences. Your presence in class means that you have read the assigned material and are prepared to discuss it in an intelligent fashion. Being prepared also means that you have completed any written assignments on a satisfactory basis. If I call on you and I judge that you are unprepared, I reserve the right to mark you as absent for that class and to deduct participation points.

If you are unprepared for class but would like to attend and receive the benefit of the class discussion, let me know at the start of class that you wish to count the class as one of your permitted absences and I will not call on you that day.

**Workload Expectations:**

The American Bar Association (ABA) standards for accrediting law schools contain a formula for calculating the amount of work required to earn one hour of law school credit. Pursuant to these standards, each credit hour should reasonably approximate one hour of in-class instruction and at least two hours of out-of-class work per week for fifteen weeks. Accordingly, for this three-credit-hour class, you should spend approximately three hours per week in class and at least six hours per week preparing for class or engaging in other class-related activities.

**Make-up Classes**

To ensure compliance with ABA Standard 304, this class is required to hold additional class session(s) or engage in out-of-class assignments to make up for the Labor Day holiday on Mon., Sep. 7 and Veterans Day, Wed., Nov. 11. More information about make-up classes and assignments will be provided later.

**Class Recordings**

This class will be recorded. However, watching a recording does not count as attendance unless the professor makes an exception due to special circumstances. If you wish to make an audio recording of the class using your own recording device, you may do so as long as you obtain the advance permission of the professor.

**Professional Behavior:**

While in the classroom, you are expected to keep distractions to a minimum, turn off any noise-making devices, and give the class your full attention. You may use laptops in the classroom for note-taking and other class-related tasks. However, other uses of technological devices are likely to be distracting and possibly even offensive to other persons in the classroom and are therefore prohibited. If I believe there is a problem with improper laptop usage in class, I reserve the right to ban the use of laptops. If it is absolutely necessary for you to enter or leave the classroom while class is in session, please do not disrupt the class upon entering or exiting the room.

I consider it part of my responsibility as a professor to address the learning needs of all of the students in this course. I will do my best to present materials in a manner that is respectful of diverse viewpoints and personal characteristics. I also believe that the diversity of student experiences and perspectives is

essential to the deepening of knowledge in a course. A good attorney must learn to listen carefully to what others say without interrupting even if they disagree with the viewpoint being expressed. During this class, we may discuss topics on which personal and political views vary greatly. In order to test ideas, I strongly encourage open discussion and the expression of different viewpoints. Keep in mind that successful attorneys make statements and arguments based in facts and case law, not based on generalizations, assumptions, or stereotypes. The goal of class discussion is not that everyone agree, but that everyone in the class gain new insights and experiences. In sum, I expect professional, respectful, and courteous behavior and commentary at all times that would be appropriate in a courtroom, legislative hearing, or public meeting. Students whose behavior is disruptive to the class or that violates the rules may be asked to leave the classroom or may face other consequences based on the circumstances.

### **TWEN (The West Education Network) and ZOOM:**

You should register for this course on TWEN no later than the first week of classes. I will post the syllabus and reading assignments on TWEN, as well as other relevant material and information. You will be expected to check TWEN at least weekly and are responsible for any materials posted on TWEN. I will also periodically send class-related e-mails to the address you list on TWEN, so be sure you list an e-mail address that you check regularly. If the coronavirus pandemic requires us to conduct class sessions online, we will use Zoom for those sessions.

### **Evaluation:**

Your grade will consist of several parts:

- (1) An online timed Multi-State Essay Exam (MEE)-style question which will be worth 10% of your grade.
- (2) A take-home mid-term writing assignment worth approximately 25% of your grade.
- (3) A final take-home writing assignment worth approximately 45% of your grade. The final writing assignment will be distributed during the last week of classes and will be due during the final exam period.
- (4) A blog post and oral presentation on a topic of “International Law in the News,” which will count towards 15% of your grade (some of these may be done virtually).
- (5) The remaining 5% of your grade will be based on your class participation, including your participation in class discussions and your preparation for and participation in simulation exercises for class, such as mock oral arguments or debates. Participation points for above average class participation are awarded in my discretion based both the quality and quantity of a student’s participation in the class discussion and activities.

More information will be provided regarding these assignments at the appropriate time. I also reserve the right to administer ungraded individual or group assignments throughout the semester.

### **Statement on Collaboration and Plagiarism:**

In this class, there will be some assignments where collaboration is allowed and even encouraged and others where it is not. It is your responsibility to pay strict attention to the professor’s instructions regarding whether and what form of collaboration is allowed.

Violating classroom rules or plagiarizing another's work, in whole or in part, is a violation of the Honor Code and can lead to serious penalties, including expulsion. An Honor Code investigation must also be reported to the Bar Examiners, even if you are cleared of any violation. The Honor Code defines plagiarism as:

passing off another's ideas, words, or work as one's own, including written, oral, multimedia, or other work, either word for word or in substance, unless the student author credits the original author and identifies the original author's work with quotation marks, footnotes, or other appropriate designation in such a way as to make clear the true author of the work.

### **Emergency Procedures:**

We ask that you become familiar with **Emergency Preparedness @ SIU**. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, on the Emergency Preparedness @ SIU website, and through text and email alerts. To register for alerts, visit: <http://emergency.siu.edu/>.

### **Disability Policy:**

SIU Carbondale is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all students with disabilities. Disability Support Services coordinates the implementation of accommodations. If you think you may be eligible for accommodations but have not yet obtained approval please contact DSS immediately at 618-453-5738 or [disabilityservices.siu.edu](http://disabilityservices.siu.edu). You may request accommodations at any time, but timely requests help to insure accommodations are in place when needed.

Accommodations and services are determined through an interactive process with students and may involve consideration of specific course design and learning objectives in consultation with faculty. Upon completion of a Disability Accommodation Agreement with DSS, students should bring the agreements for each course to the School of Law Registrar's Office to ensure the School of Law provides the proper classroom and examination accommodations. Accommodation [request](#) and [renewal](#) forms can be found here: <https://law.siu.edu/academics/>.

### **Saluki Cares:**

The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students and their families, SIU will continue to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. For Information on Saluki Cares: (618) 453-2461, or [siucares@siu.edu](mailto:siucares@siu.edu), <http://salukicare.siu.edu/index.html>. At the School of Law, Assistant Dean Judi Ray is also available to help students access university resources. Her email is [judiray@siu.edu](mailto:judiray@siu.edu), and her phone number is 618- 453-3135.

### **COVID-19:**

As a condition of on-campus enrollment, all SIUC students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19, including the requirement that all students wear a mask in campus buildings, including classrooms, laboratories, and studios when others are present, regardless of social distancing. Students are expected to follow physical or social distancing guidelines by keeping at least 6 feet from others, and practicing good hand hygiene. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. SIUC will follow federal, state and county public health recommendations and mandates in all decisions relating to university operation. Students should regularly review the link for the [SIUC COVID-19 response](#).