

INTA 4060 / 8803 Syllabus Spring 2025

International Law, 3 credits

Tuesday and Thursday, 2 PM – 3:15 PM, Ivan Allen College (Habersham G-17)

Instructor Information

Instructor

Dr. Evgeny Tikhonravov

Email

evgeny@gatech.edu

Drop-in Hours & Location

Habersham 150, by appointment
T & R 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

Description

The purpose of this course is to explore the place of international law in global affairs. It asks questions such as: What kind of law is international law and what needs does it fulfill? Where do particular legal rules come from and how do we know what they precisely mean? What role does international law play, and how does the interplay between law and politics operate in the actual decision-making of policymakers and international organizations? Can the world be changed and improved through it?

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will demonstrate an understanding of the reasoning inherent in international law and exhibit the ability to apply this comprehension to the analysis of real-world cases. Additionally, they will develop the skills to critically analyze some of the most significant and contentious issues in contemporary international law.

Course Requirements & Grading

Assignment	Date	Weight	
		Undergraduate students	Graduate students
Participation		10%	10%
Midterm 1*	02.18	23%	13%
Midterm 2*	04.08	22%	12%
Presentation	04.10, 04.15	25%	—
Research paper presentation	04.17	—	15%
Research paper	04.29 (5:30 PM)	—	50%
Final Exam*	04.29	20%	—

Description of Graded Components

Participation (undergraduate and graduate students)

Active and regular participation in class discussions is expected from all students. Your grade will be based on your participation in discussions of the assigned materials (listed on the last page of this syllabus and available in the Files tab on Canvas). You will receive feedback on your participation part-way through the course, providing an opportunity to make improvements if necessary to achieve the full participation grade.

Midterm (undergraduate and graduate students)

The midterm exams will be closed-book and will consist of various question types, including short answer, multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, multiple answer, and matching questions. Midterm 1 will cover material from the first part of class, and midterm 2 will cover material from the second part of the class. Practice tests will be provided for each midterm to help students prepare. This assignment will require the use of Respondus LockDown Browser.

Presentation (undergraduate students)

Students should prepare and deliver a 15-minute presentation, ideally in pairs, though individual presentations are also allowed with prior approval. The presentation should analyze a case decided either by the International Court of Justice or by the International Criminal Court. The presentation should be created using PowerPoint or a similar software. Draft versions must be

* This assignment will require the use of Respondus LockDown Browser. It is your responsibility to ensure that Respondus LockDown Browser is installed on your device and functioning properly. If you do not have a device compatible with Respondus LockDown Browser, you can borrow a laptop from the library where Respondus LockDown Browser is pre-installed.

uploaded to Canvas no later than four days before your scheduled presentation. Draft presentations submitted after the deadline will incur a 10% grade deduction.

Students are responsible for selecting their own case for the presentation. Each group must choose a unique case, as duplicate cases are not allowed. Once your group has selected a case, you must notify me via email. In our class on March 13, I will provide practical advice on preparing a high-quality presentation. For additional support, feel free to schedule an appointment with me or reach out via email.

Final exam (undergraduate students)

Students will select one question from a list provided by the instructor and answer it in the form of a short essay. The questions will draw on material covered in class. The final instructional class will be held prior to the exam to help students prepare. This closed-book assignment must be completed using Respondus LockDown Browser. The use of artificial intelligence tools to complete the short essay is prohibited.

The short essays will be evaluated based on the following criteria: the essay is well-organized and logically structured, with a clear introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion; ideas are presented in a cohesive manner, with smooth transitions between paragraphs; the essay exhibits critical thinking skills and supports arguments with relevant evidence and examples; the essay does not exceed 500 words.

Research paper and research paper presentation (graduate students)

The research papers should address an issue or problem related to international law. You are on the right track in selecting a research paper topic if there is a debate or disagreement about it in the world of policy, scholarship, or (even better) both. Upon selecting a research paper topic, please inform me via email.

Students will deliver a 20-minute research paper presentations, showcasing their research paper results. Research paper presentations should be prepared using PowerPoint or a similar software. Upload your draft presentation to Canvas no later than four days before your scheduled presentation. Late submissions will incur a 10% grade deduction.

The entire paper must not exceed 4,000 words. Each paper should present a clearly defined thesis. All papers must adhere to the Chicago Manual of Style. Direct quotations are preferred over paraphrasing. The bibliography should list only those sources that are cited in the paper. You will receive brief feedback explaining the reasons for your paper's grade (I will write comments in the margins electronically, as well as summary comments). Your research paper is a graded substitute for a final exam. The use of artificial intelligence tools to complete the research paper is prohibited.

The research papers will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Organization and Structure:** The paper should demonstrate a well-organized and logically structured approach. It should include the following elements: a title page, a table of

contents, a clear introduction outlining the paper's structure, well-defined sections, coherent body paragraphs, a concise conclusion, and a bibliography. Transitions between paragraphs should be smooth, enhancing the flow of the paper.

- **Depth of Analysis:** The paper is not expected to meet the same level of originality as a submission to an academic journal. The emphasis should be on demonstrating research and analytical skills, critical thinking, and engagement with the topic. The paper should delve into the topic with sufficient depth, providing a comprehensive analysis within the given word limit. It should showcase a good grasp of the academic literature by incorporating relevant citations. I will appreciate it if you refer to academic literature not only in the English language but also in other relevant languages.

Penalty policy:

- **Late submissions:** Research papers submitted after the deadline will receive a grade of zero. Papers must be submitted via Canvas; emailed submissions will not be accepted or graded.
- **Exceeding the word limit:** Papers with a total length between 4,001 and 5,000 words will lose 10% of the grade. Papers exceeding 5,000 words will receive a grade of zero.
- **Any other weaknesses, flaws, or mistakes in your paper**—such as issues with formatting, style, spelling, grammar, structure, or violations of the requirements specified in this syllabus—will be penalized at the instructor's discretion.

Your research paper should be crafted and written on your own. You may talk with others about your ideas, but you should be working by yourself on the actual outline and content. If you received any help with your writing, you must also acknowledge this assistance. In addition, you are required to cite all sources you use in your paper. This includes both direct quotations and cases where you use someone else's ideas. "Sources" include papers, journals, anything found on the internet, and so on. Basically, if the thought did not originate with you, you should provide a source.

In our class on March 13, I will offer practical advice on writing a high-quality research paper, with an emphasis on avoiding common pitfalls. For additional support, feel free to schedule an appointment with me or reach out via email.

Before the submission deadline, you may upload your research paper to Canvas as many times as needed. Please ensure that the document you upload retains its original formatting. I will download and review your research papers only after the submission deadline.

Lecture Slides

Lecture slides will be posted on the Canvas website in the Files tab by the end of each week. These slides are for your educational use only and should not be shared in any form. Please be aware they may not fully reflect the content of the lectures. Therefore, regular attendance and diligent note-taking are crucial for performing well on exams.

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89.99%
C	70-79.99%
D	60-69.99%
F	0-59.99%

Course Texts

Shaw, M. (2021). *International Law* (9th ed.). Cambridge University Press (hereafter “Shaw”).*

Course Website and Communications Policy

The Canvas site will provide essential course information, including the syllabus, reading materials, and announcements. Throughout the semester, I will communicate important updates and information via Canvas announcements. Please ensure that you have enabled notifications for all course-related communications and review them promptly. A note on email: I will respond to email within 48 hours except on weekends.

Academic Integrity

Cheating, plagiarism, and all forms of academic dishonesty are expressly forbidden in this class, and by the university’s Honor Code (<https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/academic-honor-code>). Any form of cheating will immediately earn you a failing grade for the entire course, and I will pursue further disciplinary actions according to Georgia Tech’s policies and procedures.

Accommodations for Learning Needs

If you have learning needs that require some adaptations for you to succeed in this course, please contact the Office of Disability Services on campus (<http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>). I am happy to arrange to accommodate your learning needs based on their recommendations.

Class Presence and Make-up Exams

Attendance will be taken at every class meeting. However, there are no penalties for unexcused absences. Please do not email to notify me of or explain absences.

Please ensure you are familiar with the course schedule well in advance and plan accordingly, including any travel arrangements, to avoid scheduling conflicts with the course schedule. Make-up exams will be given only for documented reasons of illness, family emergency, or participation in approved Institute activities (see <http://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/12/> for more information).

* I will provide guidance on how to use this course text during the course introduction on January 7.

Re-grading and Re-submission

Requests for regrading may be submitted in writing within two days of the day you received the grade. You must justify in writing the technical basis for the regrade. If the request is accepted, your assignment may be regarded.

Student-Faculty Expectations

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to continually strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgment, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. Simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. In other words, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech, while in this class.

Use of Mobile Devices, Laptops, etc. During Class

As research on learning shows, unexpected noises and movement automatically divert and capture people's attention, which means you are affecting everyone's learning experience if your cell phone, laptop, etc. makes noise or is visually distracting during class. That said, many students find it useful to have a mobile device on hand to access course materials. With this in mind, I allow you to take notes on your laptop, but request that you turn the sound off so that you do not disrupt other students' learning. In addition, if you are doing anything other than taking notes or looking at course materials on your laptop, please sit in the back row so that other students are not distracted by your screen.

Food and Drink

Please feel free to bring your food and drink with you to class. However, please be mindful of your setting: avoid strong smells, food that is likely to make a mess, and food that makes it difficult to engage with class discussion and/or taking notes. In addition, please be sure to clear your garbage when you leave, and wipe your desktop for the next student sitting in your seat.

Recording Classroom Activities

Recording of our classes is not allowed. This policy can be waived for students with accommodations upon explicit recommendation from the Office of Disability Services. You are welcome to take notes and photos of the board.

Office Hours

Please email me to schedule an appointment during office hours. My final office hours of the semester will be held on April 22.

Statement on Inclusion

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in the broader society.

Final Caveat

This syllabus is to be considered a living document and therefore subject to change. Any major changes will be discussed with the class and posted to Canvas. If you have any questions about what you see on the syllabus, please email me to discuss.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Shaw	Materials for Discussion*
January			
01.07 (T)	Course Introduction		
01.09 (R)	The Sources of International Law 1	Ch. 3	
01.14 (T)	The Sources of International Law 2	Ch. 3	
01.16 (R)	The United Nations	Ch. 21	
01.21 (T)	International Human Rights Law 1	Ch. 6	
01.23 (R)	International Human Rights Law 2	Pp. 187-9; 228-35; 258-61	Milanovic
01.28 (T)	Self-Determination of Peoples 1		Cassese
01.30 (R)	Self-Determination of Peoples 2		Kohen
February			
02.04 (T)	Use or Threat of Force by States 1	Ch. 19	Malanczuk
02.06 (R)	Use or Threat of Force by States 2	Ch. 19	Taft
02.11 (T)	Artic International Status (online guest lecture)		
02.13 (R)	Practice test for midterm 1		
02.18 (T)	Midterm 1		
02.20 (R)	International Humanitarian Law 1	Ch. 20	
02.25 (T)	International Humanitarian Law 2	Ch. 20	
02.27 (R)	International Intellectual Property Law (guest lecture)		
March			
03.04 (T)	International Criminal Justice 1	Ch. 7	
03.06 (R)	International Criminal Justice 2	Ch. 7	Schramm
03.11 (T)	The International Court of Justice	Ch. 18	
03.13 (R)	Guidance for Research Papers and Presentations		
03.18 (T)	Spring Break		
03.20 (R)	Spring Break		
03.25 (T)	Diplomatic and Consular Law 1	Pp. 651-72	
03.27 (R)	Diplomatic and Consular Law 2		Aceves
April			
04.01 (T)	War in Ukraine		Kamminga
04.03 (R)	Practice test for midterm 2		
04.08 (T)	Midterm 2		
04.10 (R)	Presentation 1		
04.15 (T)	Presentation 2		
04.17 (R)	Research paper presentation		
04.22 (T)	Final Instructional Class — Feedback and CIOS assignment (not for a credit)		
04.29 (T)	Final Exam, 2:40 PM – 5:30 PM		

* Materials for discussion will be available in the “Files” section on Canvas.