

**INTA 4060 / 8803 Syllabus Spring 2024****International Law, 3 credits****Monday and Wednesday, 3:30-4:45 PM, Ivan Allen College (Habersham G–17)****Instructor Information****Instructor**  
Evgeny Tikhonravov**Email**  
evgeny@gatech.edu**Drop-in Hours & Location**  
Habersham 150, by appointment  
M&W 4:50–5:50 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

**General Information****Description**

The purpose of this advanced discussion and research seminar 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 foreign 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

### Undergraduate students

Assignment	Date	Weight
<b>Exam 1</b>	February 7	15%
<b>Group projects</b>	February 26&28	10%
<b>Exam 2</b>	March 13	15%
<b>Research paper presentation</b>	April 15&17	10%
<b>Research paper</b>	April 21	30%
<b>Final exam</b>	April 26	20%

### Graduate students

Assignment	Date	Weight
<b>Two short essays</b>	February 7 and March 13	15% each, 30% in total
<b>Group projects</b>	February 26&28	10%
<b>Research paper presentation</b>	April 15&17	15%
<b>Research paper</b>	April 21	45%

### Extra Credit Opportunities

No extra credit will be offered in this course.

### Description of Graded Components

#### Exams

	Exam 1	Exam 2	Final Exam
<b>Undergraduate students</b>			
<b>Date</b>	February 7	March 13	April 26
<b>Weight</b>	15%	15%	20%
<b>Coverage</b>	Material from January 8 to February 5	Material from February 12 to March 11	The final exam will cover all course material
<b>Format</b>	The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions.		
<b>Graduate students</b>			
<b>Date</b>	February 7	March 13	—
<b>Weight</b>	15%	15%	—
<b>Coverage</b>	Material from January 8 to February 5	Material from February 12 to March 11	—
<b>Format</b>	A short essay*	A short essay*	—

\* For each essay, you will have the opportunity to select one question to answer from a set of at least two questions provided by the instructor. The questions for each essay will align with the material covered in the respective parts of the course.

### Essay Guidelines

- **Essay Length:** The length of each essay should be between 350–375 words.
- **Open Book Assignments:** These essay assignments will be open book, allowing you to utilize course materials and external sources to support your arguments.
- **Preferred Electronic Submission:** While handwritten essays are acceptable, I strongly encourage electronic submission using laptops or tablet computers.
- **Submission Details:** At the end of the class, please submit your essays via email to [evgeny@gatech.edu](mailto:evgeny@gatech.edu). If you choose to handwrite your essays, kindly ensure your writing is legible for evaluation.

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, examples, or references from the course materials. It demonstrates the ability to integrate and apply knowledge to support the main points.

### Group projects

Students should form six groups (three to four students in each group), and each group should choose one of the six following topics:

1. The 1999 NATO bombing of Yugoslavia was consistent with international law.
2. The 2011 military intervention in Libya was consistent with international law.
3. Azerbaijan's actions in Nagorno-Karabakh from 2020 to 2023 were consistent with international law.
4. The 1999 NATO bombing of Yugoslavia was inconsistent with international law.
5. The 2011 military intervention in Libya was inconsistent with international law.
6. Azerbaijan's actions in Nagorno-Karabakh from 2020 to 2023 were inconsistent with international law.

In our class on February 26, we will consider topics 1, 2, and 3, and each group will make a presentation of up to 20 minutes, submitting their arguments related to the topic. The other three groups will present their arguments regarding topics 4, 5, and 6 on February 28. This assignment does not require written submissions, and students are encouraged to present their arguments with the assistance of PowerPoint or other presentation programs.

### Research paper and research paper presentation

There is no predefined list of questions for the research paper assignment; students are encouraged to formulate their own inquiries based on their interests. Generally, the research papers should address an issue, problem, or puzzle related to international law and include empirical evidence in their analysis. A few suggested topics are provided at the end of this syllabus section.

For undergraduate students, the assignment involves forming groups of four people to collaboratively write a research paper and present their findings. Graduate students will individually write and present their research papers.

Upon forming groups and selecting a paper topic, please inform me via email at [evgeny@gatech.edu](mailto:evgeny@gatech.edu). Kindly refrain from choosing a subject that has already been designated as one of the group project topics (refer to the “Group Projects” section in the syllabus above).

The research papers are due at 11:59 PM on April 19, and they should be submitted via email to the instructor at [evgeny@gatech.edu](mailto:evgeny@gatech.edu). The paper’s length should be 2,500 words for undergraduate students and 3,000 words for graduate students (excluding the title page, footnotes, and literature list). All papers should follow the APA writing style and format.

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, with a clear introduction, well-defined sections, coherent body paragraphs, and a concise conclusion. Transitions between sections and paragraphs should be smooth, enhancing the flow of the paper.
- **Depth of Analysis:** The paper should delve into the topic with sufficient depth, providing a comprehensive analysis within the given word limit. It should showcase a strong 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.

Please note that a research paper is not expected to meet the same level of originality as a submission to a prestigious academic journal. The emphasis should be on demonstrating solid research skills, critical thinking, and engagement with the topic.

**A few suggestions for research paper topics:**

- The (im)possibility of legal justification of preventive self-defense or war.
- The reasons for skeptical attitudes of some countries toward the International Criminal Court.
- The assessment of the legality of the various phases or controversial practices of the US war on terror.
- Iran’s nuclear program and the possibility of the use of force against Iran.
- North Korea’s nuclear program and the possibility of the use of force against North Korea.
- Status and treatment of detainees in the war on terror under international law.
- The policy of targeted killings: its evaluation according to contemporary international law.
- Recognition of Juan Guaidó as the president of Venezuela and international law.
- Effective protection of international human rights.
- Impartiality as a principle of international criminal justice.
- Russia’s annexation of Crimea as a violation of international law.
- The US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital as seen from the point of view of international law.
- The US recognition of the Golan Heights as Israel’s territory as seen from the point of view of international law.
- The Catalans and the right of self-determination under international law.
- The Iraqi Kurds and the right of self-determination under international law.
- Interaction between humanitarian international law and international human rights law.
- The assessment of the international legality of the military participation of various countries in the Syrian Civil War.

- Israeli settlements in the West Bank and international law.
- The concept of “soft law” as applied to international law.

## Grading Scale

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

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

## Course Materials

### Course Text

Shaw, M. (2017). *International Law* (8th ed.). Cambridge University Press (hereafter “Shaw”). (Chapters will be available in Canvas).

Crawford, J, Brownlie, I. (2019). *Brownlie's Principles of Public International Law*. Oxford University Press (hereafter “Brownlie”). (Chapters will be available in Canvas).

### Course Website

The Canvas site will host essential course information, including the syllabus, reading materials, and course announcements. Chapters from Shaw and Brownlie will be accessible on Canvas under the “Files” section. Alongside Shaw and Brownlie, additional book chapters and articles have been designated as required reading materials. These resources can be located in the Canvas “Files” section or accessed by clicking on the links embedded in their respective titles. Please note that certain links may only open if you are connected via the GaTech VPN.

## Course Expectations & Guidelines

### Academic Integrity and Collaboration

Cheating, plagiarism, and all forms of academic dishonesty are expressly forbidden in this class, and by the university’s Honor Code (<http://honor.gatech.edu/content/2/thehonor-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 (see <http://honor.gatech.edu/plugins/faq/> for more information on this).

Here are the things you need to know to ensure that you are working within the constraints of both the university’s policy, and my expectations for this course:

#### 1. Research Paper

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 need further assistance with your paper please consider joining me during my office hours, or making an appointment with the Communication Center (<http://www.communicationcenter.gatech.edu/>). 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. If you need some

guidance on the mechanics of citing your sources, please see the “Citing Your Sources” document on our course website.

## **2. Campus Resources**

You are permitted (and even encouraged) to make use of the academic support services offered by The Center for Academic Success (<http://www.success.gatech.edu/>) and the Communication Center (<http://www.communicationcenter.gatech.edu/>).

### **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.

### **Attendance and Participation**

Attendance is not required in this course.

### **Late/Missed Assignments and Exams**

Your research papers are due at 11:59 PM on April 19. They may be turned in after the deadline, but you will be eligible for fewer points once the deadline has passed: you will only be eligible for 90% of the total grade if it is submitted by 3 AM that night, and you will lose an additional 10% from the total you are eligible to earn for every 12-hour period it is late thereafter. Research papers more than 3 days late will earn a grade of 0.

Short essay one submitted later than 4:50 PM February 7 and short essay two submitted later than 4:50 PM March 13 will earn a grade of 0. Make-up exams will be given only for documented reasons of illness, family emergency, or participation in approved Institute activities (such as field trips and athletic events, see <http://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/12/> for more information).

### **Re-grading and Re-submission**

Requests for regrading of exams and research papers may be submitted in writing within one week of the day you received the grade. You must justify in writing the technical basis for the regrade. If the regarding request is accepted, your exam and research paper 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. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22.php> for an articulation of some basic expectations – that you can have of me, and that I have of you. In the end, 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**

In order to preserve class integrity, student privacy, and a safe environment to express opinions, recording of our classes using digital, tape, or audio devices 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.

### **Guest Lectures**

Throughout the course, several guest professors will deliver online lectures. To facilitate engaging discussions, you are kindly requested to prepare one or two questions related to the topic of each guest lecture. Please send these questions at [evgeny@gatech.edu](mailto:evgeny@gatech.edu) at least one week prior to the scheduled lecture.

### **Development of This Course**

Learning should not happen in a vacuum. To help ensure the best chance for success for the students of this course, this course draws on the format, syllabus, and materials from similar successful courses. I am incredibly thankful to Mikulas Fabry and Vince Pedicino for their gracious help.

### **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 (short overview)**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>
1.	01.08 (M)	Course Introduction
2.	01.10 (W)	The Development of International Law
3.	01.15 (M)	Official Institute Holiday, No Class
4.	01.17 (W)	The Sources of International Law
5.	01.22 (M)	International Law and National Law
6.	01.24 (W)	Recognition of States and Governments
7.	01.29 (M)	Self-Determination of Peoples
8.	01.31 (W)	International Human Rights Law
9.	02.05 (M)	International Humanitarian Law
10.	02.07 (W)	Exam 1
11.	02.12 (M)	The United Nations
12.	02.14 (W)	International Organizations
13.	02.19 (M)	Use or Threat of Force by States 1
14.	02.21 (W)	Use or Threat of Force by States 2
15.	02.26 (M)	Group Projects 1
16.	02.28 (W)	Group Projects 2
17.	03.04 (M)	International Criminal Justice
18.	03.06 (W)	International Court of Justice
19.	03.11 (M)	International Intellectual Property Law
20.	03.13 (W)	Exam 2
21.	03.18 (M)	Spring Break, No Class
22.	03.20 (W)	Spring Break, No Class
23.	03.25 (M)	Diplomatic and Consular Relations
24.	03.27 (W)	Soviet Invasion of Poland in 1939
25.	04.01 (M)	Arctic International Status
26.	04.03 (W)	Transitional Justice in Lithuania: How Does the Democratic State Re-evaluate Its Past?
27.	04.08 (M)	The War in Ukraine 1
28.	04.10 (W)	The War in Ukraine 2
29.	04.15 (M)	Research Paper Presentation
30.	04.17 (W)	Research Paper Presentation
31.	04.22 (M)	Final Review
32.	04.26 (F)	Final Exam



**Course Schedule (extended overview)**

**Week 01, 01/08 – 01/12**

**Monday:** Course Introduction

**Wednesday:** The Development of International Law

Readings

Shaw, ch. 1.

**Week 02, 01/15 – 01/19**

**Monday:** Official Institute Holiday, No Class

**Wednesday:** The Sources of International Law

Readings

Shaw, ch. 3.

**Week 03, 01/22 – 01/26**

**Monday:** International Law and National Law

Readings

Shaw, ch. 4.

**Wednesday:** Recognition of States and Governments

Readings

Shaw, ch. 8.

**Week 04, 01/29 – 02/02**

**Monday:** Self-Determination of Peoples

Readings

Kohen, M., and Del Mar, K. (2011). The Kosovo Advisory Opinion and UNSCR 1244 (1999): A Declaration of ‘Independence from International Law’? *Leiden Journal of International Law*, 24(1), 109–126.

Burke-White, W. (2014). Crimea and the International Legal Order. Faculty Scholarship. Paper 1360.

**Wednesday:** International Human Rights Law

Readings

Brownlie, ch. 29.

**Week 05, 02/05 – 02/09**

**Monday:** International Humanitarian Law

Readings

Shaw, ch. 20.

**Wednesday:** Exam 1

**Week 06, 02/12 – 02/16**

**Monday:** The United Nations

**Readings**

Shaw, ch. 21.

**Wednesday:** International Organizations

Readings

Shaw, ch. 22.

**Week 07, 02/19 – 02/23**

**Monday:** Use or Threat of Force by States 1

Readings

Brownlie, ch. 33.

**Wednesday:** Use or Threat of Force by States 2

Readings

Visser, L. (2019). May the Force Be with You: The Legal Classification of Intervention by Invitation. *Netherlands Internatinal Law Review* 66(1), 21–45.

### **Week 08, 02/26 – 03/01**

**Monday:** Group Projects 1

Readings

Wheeler, N. (2004). The Kosovo Bombing Campaign. In Christian Reus-Smit (Ed.), *The Politics of International Law* (pp. 189–216). Cambridge University Press, 2004).

Ruys, T., Silvestre, F. R. (2022). Illegal: The Recourse to Force to Recover Occupied Territory and the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War. *European Journal of International Law* 32(4), 1287–1297.

Akande, D., Tzanakopoulos, A. (2022). Legal: Use of Force in Self-Defence to Recover Occupied Territory. *European Journal of International Law* 32(4), 1299–1307.

McWhinney, E. (2011). The United Nations Charter Chapter VII Prohibitions on the Use of Force and Armed Interventions: International Law Lessons from the former Yugoslavia (1999), Iraq (2003), Afghanistan (2005) and Libya (2011).

**Wednesday:** Group Projects 2

Readings

Wheeler, N. (2004). The Kosovo Bombing Campaign. In Christian Reus-Smit (Ed.), *The Politics of International Law* (pp. 189–216). Cambridge University Press, 2004).

Ruys, T., Silvestre, F. R. (2022). Illegal: The Recourse to Force to Recover Occupied Territory and the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War. *European Journal of International Law* 32(4), 1287–1297.

Akande, D., Tzanakopoulos, A. (2022). Legal: Use of Force in Self-Defence to Recover Occupied Territory. *European Journal of International Law* 32(4), 1299–1307.

McWhinney, E. (2011). The United Nations Charter Chapter VII Prohibitions on the Use of Force and Armed Interventions: International Law Lessons from the former Yugoslavia (1999), Iraq (2003), Afghanistan (2005) and Libya (2011).

### **Week 09, 03/04 – 03/08**

**Monday:** International Criminal Justice

Readings

Brownlie, ch. 30.

Wednesday: International Court of Justice

Readings

Shaw, ch. 18.

**Week 10, 03/11 – 03/15**

**Monday:** Guest Lecture, Creighton Frommer (Chief Counsel, Intellectual Property, Technology, and Procurement for RELX), International Intellectual Property Law

**Wednesday:** Exam 2

**Week 11, 03/18 – 03/22**

**Monday:** Spring Break, No Class

**Wednesday:** Spring Break, No Class

**Week 12, 03/25 – 03/29**

**Monday:** Diplomatic and Consular Relations

Readings

Brownlie, ch. 17.

**Wednesday:** Guest Lecture, Mirosław M Sadowski, DCL (University of Strathclyde), Soviet Invasion of Poland in 1939

Readings

Sword, K. (Ed.). *The Soviet Takeover of the Polish Eastern Provinces, 1939–41*. University of London, 1991. Pp. xvi–xix. (In Canvas).

**Week 13, 04/01 – 04/05**

**Monday:** Guest Lecture, Prof. Alexander Sergunin (Saint Petersburg State University), Arctic International Status

Readings

Sergunin, A. (2017). Russian Approaches to an Emerging Arctic Ocean Legal Order. PCRC Working Paper No. 6.

**Wednesday:** Guest Lecture, Prof. Donatas Murauskas (Vilnius University), Transitional Justice in Lithuania: How Does the Democratic State Re-evaluate Its Past?

Readings

Fijalkowski, A. (2018). Historical Politics and Court Redress in the Baltic States. In C. M. Horne, L. Stan (Eds.), *Transitional Justice and the Former Soviet Union: Reviewing the Past, Looking toward the Future* (pp. 216–240). Cambridge University Press. (In Canvas).

Milašiūtė, V. (2021). Transitional Justice Cases Against Lithuania at the European Court of Human Rights. In G. Švedas, D. Murauskas (Eds.), *Legal Developments During 30 Years of Lithuanian Independence* (pp. 3–18). Springer. (In Canvas).

**Week 14, 04/08 – 04/12**

**Monday:** The War in Ukraine 1

Readings

Perry, F. (2023). The Russian Invasion of Ukraine and the Tottering Principles of International Law: Russia's Assault on World Norms, *Wisconsin International Law Journal*, 40(3), 331–390.

**Wednesday:** The War in Ukraine 2

Readings

Perry, F. (2023). The Russian Invasion of Ukraine and the Tottering Principles of International Law: Russia's Assault on World Norms, *Wisconsin International Law Journal*, 40(3), 331–390.

**Week 15, 04/15 – 04/19**

**Monday:** Research Paper Presentations

**Wednesday:** Research Paper Presentations

**Week 16, 04/22 – 04/26**

**Monday:** Final Review

**Friday:** Final Exam