

Instructor: Jill A. Taft Kurz 239 x 2302 [jtaft@maritime.edu](mailto:jtaft@maritime.edu)

Class Hours: Tu, Thur: 1000 - 1115; 1200 - 1315 Harrington 108

Office Hours: Mon: 1200 – 1330, 1530 – 1600  
Tues: 1530 – 1600  
Wed: 1200 – 1330, 1530 – 1600  
Thur: 1530 – 1600  
Other times by appointment

**Standing Orders:**

- **International Law / Legislative Compliance is required as part of the Knowledge, Understanding and Proficiency elements of the STCW Code pursuant to the STCW Convention. MINIMUM GRADE TO EARN CREDIT IN STCW CLASSES IS C -**
- **Attendance is mandatory. Illnesses may be excused with proper documentation from Sick Bay / Health Services. Students remain responsible for the material covered during their absence. If you must be absent for some other reason, please email me ahead of time. MORE THAN 3 ABSENCES IN STCW CLASS = NO CREDIT FOR CLASS**
- **Laptops, tablets or other electronic devices are not to be used in class unless directed on a particular occasion.**
- **Cell phones will be on silent mode and put away during class.**
- **Students shall adhere to the highest ideals of academic honesty at all times.**
- **This syllabus may be revised as necessary as the semester progresses.**

**Course Materials:**

- Murphy, Sean: *Principles of International Law* (Second Edition, 2012)
- Handouts as distributed or assigned.

**Course Description:**

This course will focus on the fundamentals of International Law – the nature, history, theoretical foundations, and the actors and entities that execute, uphold and maintain International treaties, codes and conventions (states, international organizations, non-governmental groups, corporations, etc.). We will explore the Law of the Sea, a specialized area of International Law pertaining to use and control of the sea / seabed and its resources and the relationships among states that desire to exploit these resources.

The course will also include review of international codes and conventions that pertain to the mariner – seafarers. This includes the major IMO conventions: Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and Standards for Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW). We will also discuss the International Labor Organization’s Maritime Labor Convention – MLC 2006, Ballast Water Convention and corresponding U.S. domestic regulations implementing the international conventions.

**Grade Computation:**

**Quizzes, Exams and Projects:** Grades will be based on quizzes, exams and projects as well as class participation and attendance. The mid-term exam, mid-October will be worth 30% of final grade and the Final Exam will be worth 40% of final grade. The Final Exam will be held at the end of the semester **on the time and date assigned by the Registrar – tbd.**

Class participation and attendance count toward your final grade, and may be adjusted up or down based on the quality and frequency of class participation and preparedness and also on attendance.

**Students having more than 3 absences will not earn credit for the course.**

**This class is an STCW requirement. Students must achieve a minimum grade of C – (C minus) to earn credit for the course.**

**Course Learning Objectives:**

After completing this course, Cadets should have:

1. An understanding of the history, development and scope of International Law; knowledge of how International Law is created, interpreted and enforced; and a clear understanding of how international disputes are resolved;
2. A basic working knowledge of the relevant IMO conventions concerning safety of life at sea, security and protection of the marine environment; and an understanding of related international maritime conventions and recommendations, as well as related, applicable U.S. domestic regulations.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students should have a thorough understanding of how international law is created, interpreted and enforced; and a clear understanding of how international disputes are resolved.
2. Students should have a thorough understanding of international agreements and theories and practices of states within the international community.
3. Students should have a thorough understanding of how international law applies to marine professionals.
4. Students should have a thorough understanding of relevant IMO conventions, related international maritime conventions, as well as national legislation.

**Social Science Learning Outcomes:**

1. Higher order thinking: Students should be able to perform higher order thinking skills to include both critical and insightful thinking. They should be able to apply the elements of reasoning and be able to use criteria and content in order to make decisions, analyze arguments, imagine solutions to problems and create original and unique scholarship.
2. Communication Competence: Students should be able to write, read, speak and listen effectively and be able to express and process ideas clearly and succinctly. They should be able to create essays and complex answers to problems using these skills. They should demonstrate constant adherence to the highest ideals of academic honesty.
3. Contextual Awareness: Students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of various social, historical and cultural contexts in order to operate within a dynamic world and workplace. These skills should help the students navigate a workplace which is increasingly complex, socially and professionally.
4. Scholastic self-confidence: Students should be able to arrive at a position using academically valid skills and criteria they then should be able to confidently defend and support their position through knowledge and communication skills.

5. Broadened world perspective: Students should be able to understand their own and America's place in the wider world and appreciate the social, economic, political, historical and legal realities which define their global realities.

Topic	Pages	Projects / discussions
1) Introduction to International Law a) Nature and Scope of International Law	<u><b>Murphy</b></u> Chapter 1 1-10; 19-30	Lawyers shipwrecked on an uncharted island
2) Actors in International Law a) States b) International organizations c) Non-governmental organizations d) Multinational corporations	<u><b>Murphy</b></u> Chapter 2 33-47; 47 – 59; 69 – 74	Is this entity a state?  Project: group research / presentations on Int'l Organizations;
3) International Law Creation a) Treaties b) Customary international law c) Law-making international organizations d) Soft law – codes of behavior	<u><b>Murphy</b></u> Chapter 3 77-84; 88 (last para) – 92; 92-101; 104 – 111; 116 - 123	Project: group research / presentations on Treaties  Discussion: treaty terms conflict with <i>jus cogens</i>
4) Dispute Resolution in International Law a) Negotiation, notification and consultation b) Mediation and conciliation c) Arbitration d) International Court of Justice	<u><b>Murphy</b></u> Chapter 4 125 – 138; 140 – 150 top of page; 162 - 170	Project: group research / ICJ opinions
5) The Law of the Sea	<u><b>Murphy</b></u> Chapter 11 383 - 410	

Topic	Pages	Projects / discussions
6) The Use of Force	<b><u>Epps &amp; Graham</u></b> Chapter 10 pp 275 – 303: <i>jus ad bellum</i> Handout	Examples and explanations in Chapter
7) International Human Rights Law	<b><u>Murphy</u></b> Chapter 10 pp 333 – 345 Online: Human Rights at Sea	
8) Introduction - overview of legislative compliance subjects, SOLAS Chapter 1 - General	Blackboard: IMO – What it is; SOLAS folder: History SOLAS TOC and SOLAS Ch 1 General	
9) Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS) a) Chapter I - General	Blackboard: SOLAS folder – SOLAS History, SOLAS TOC and SOLAS Chapter 1 General	
10) SOLAS – Chapter III – Lifesaving appliances	Blackboard: SOLAS folder – SOLAS Chapter III	
11) SOLAS – Chapter V – Safety of Navigation	Blackboard: SOLAS folder – SOLAS Chapter V	
12) SOLAS – Chapter XI – 2 Maritime Security a) ISPS Code / MTSA b) Vessel security ops / plans / management	Blackboard: SOLAS folder – SOLAS Chapter XI-2	

Topic	Pages	Projects / discussions
13) SOLAS – Chapter IX – Management for the safe operation of ships a) ISM Code b) Safety Management Systems	Blackboard: SOLAS folder – SOLAS Chapter IX	
14) The Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships – MARPOL a) Introduction and Annex I – Oil / US regs CFR b) SOPEP / VRP response plans c) OPA 90 – the responsible party, removal costs and damages	Blackboard: MARPOL folder – History of MARPOL, MARPOL TOC, Annex I	
15) MARPOL – Annex V – Garbage / US regs CFR a) Management, plans and recordkeeping	Blackboard: MARPOL folder	
16) MARPOL – Annex VI – Air Pollution / US regs CFR a) Global sulfur cap issues for ship operations, IMO guidance b) MARPOL-compliant engines – certification, recordkeeping, inspections	Blackboard: MARPOL folder	
17) International Convention for the Control and Management of Ballast Water / US regs CFR	Blackboard	
18) International Labor Organization – Maritime Labor Convention (MLC 2006) a) General b) US equivalent compliance c) Occupational Safety and Health; risk management	Blackboard	
19) Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping – STCW	Blackboard	

- **MIDTERM: mid-October;**
- **FINAL EXAM: Date/time TBD**