



University
of Victoria

POLI 329

Political Foundations of International Law

Instructor Fall 2022: Dr. Claire Cutler

Course delivery: POLI 329 will be delivered online using a combination of synchronous and asynchronous formats.

Course description:

This introductory course will explore the analytical and theoretical foundations of international law and how they relate to the field of international relations. The course begins with analysis of the origins of international law, which is richly entwined with the history of western international society. Different approaches to the study of international law and international politics that derive from distinctive analytical and theoretical traditions are reviewed. We will examine the developments that are breaking the frames of traditional understandings of law and politics, and the critical approaches that reject international laws' foundations as colonial, oppressive, and exploitative in advancing private regimes of appropriation and dispossession.

Prerequisite: None

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Understand how the international legal system operates
- Regulation of human rights, use of force, criminality and the global political economy
- Understand the main players in the international legal system
- Develop core undergraduate skills such as effective writing, analysis, and argumentation

Topics may include:

Relationship between international law and international relations
Watersheds in the development of international law
Influence of forces of globalization on international law
International legal institutions
Human rights and criminality
Use of Force
Private transnational governance

This summary provides an overall sense of the course. It is not an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.