POLI 442 International Law

Instructor Spring 2022: Dr. Claire Cutler

Course delivery: In the Spring 2022 term, this course will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Course description:
This is an advanced seminar in international law that assumes some knowledge of the field. The seminar will explore the nature of the relationship between the disciplines of international relations and international law; the relationships between power and law. Each views international law through theories that are distinctive to their discipline, but that also give rise to some common concerns. Both fields are recording profound transformations that challenge their conventional wisdom. We will explore the extent to which the worlds of international law and politics are giving way to a new form of world politics where transnational law is eclipsing state-based international law as the dominant form of global governance, generating new theoretical and, potentially, emancipatory insights into the relationship between power and law.

Prerequisites: POLI 329, or permission of the department

Course outcomes/objectives:
- Develop writing and seminar presentation skills
- Understand the relationship between international law and international relations
- Gain a knowledge of theoretical approaches to studying international law
- Exploring the application of theory to reality

Topics may include:
International human rights
Indigenous rights
Women’s Rights
Transnational corporations
Accountability of private military and security firms
International environmental law
Use of Force
Emancipatory potential of international law

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