

# International Justice: From Nuremberg to the International Criminal Court

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**Grades:** 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

**NOTE:** It is not necessary to have taken the international law course offered in the winter, in order to take this course. It is also important to note that the material will not be overlapping, so you may take both to engage in a deep understanding of issues of international law and restorative justice and peace.)

**Day (s) of Week:** Monday  
**Time of Class:** 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET  
**Length of Class:** 10 Weeks  
**Semester:** Spring 2019  
**Tuition:** \$300.00

**Instructor's Name:** Kirsten Bowman  
**Instructor's Email:** kbowman274@gmail.com  
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**Instructor's Phone:** (925)316 8841

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## Description of Class:

This class will focus on the International Criminal Court – a permanent independent international court, closely connected but not a part of the UN system.

Beginning with WWII, students will discover the amazing history of the fight for global justice and ultimately a more peaceful existence. The first two weeks of this course will help students to understand the progression of international justice from Nuremberg through regional courts and finally to the installation of a permanent court to try atrocity crimes.

Turning to focus for six weeks on the International Criminal Court – students will dive deep to focus on three topical themes

- 1) Law or War where students will be faced with questions for debate such as 'should the U.S. join the treaty to become a part of the International Criminal Court'
- 2) Peace and Justice where students will focus on two questions. First the ramifications of the use of child soldiers and the idea of child soldiers as victims or perpetrators of crimes. Secondly, students will learn about local justice systems, comparing those to international justice mechanisms.
- 3) Testing the Limits where students will consider how far the UN and an international court can really go to achieve international justice.

In the final two weeks of the course students will engage in a team debate with the question to be considered – Can war be waged legally? Here the students will put their new knowledge and critical analysis into action to debate whether it is possible, under existing international laws, for governments or rebel groups to wage war legally considering issues such as child soldiers, the bombing of medical facilities and the displacement of civilian populations.

### **Class Approach:**

This course is part lecture, part discussion and debate and part group project participation. Active participation by students is necessary to gain fully from the class experience. It is very important to note that the instructor will give no personal opinions to questions presented in this course. Rather the material will be presented in an unbiased way (or where opinions are given by scholars or critics, both sides of a competing argument will be presented in order to allow students to understand the arguments and critically evaluate their own reasoning and opinions.

### **Goals:**

Students will gain an understanding of global politics and how they interact with international law, the historical progression of courts and an expanded vocabulary of terms such as impunity, deterrence effect, and complementarity that they can use to impress and irritate you with during dinner time conversations. They will develop a deeper understanding of the political and legal arguments surrounding a global international court and will critically analyze the existing laws of peace and security to determine if they are working or if further adjustments are necessary. The ultimate goal is to develop a strong ability to critically analyze global concepts and information to develop the student's confidence in their own ability to analyze and establish opinions.

### **Textbook:**

All readings and audio visual materials will be provided by the instructor

### **Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:**

Students will need a notebook and pen or the ability to keep detailed notes on a computer file.

### **Requirements:**

There will be readings to prepare for each class which may take a half hour to an hour a week to complete. This class is interactive and the ability to participate in class discussions is a highly valued skill. Students may also need to work together in groups online in order to prepare for debates.

### **Weekly Homework:**

Weekly homework will include up to an hour of readings per week for the first eight weeks and up to an hour of preparation of arguments for the final two weeks of debate.

### **Homework Policy:**

Weekly readings should be done before class. I do not necessarily strictly enforce that the readings be done, but it is important to recognize that I will not wait or slow the material for students who have failed to do the readings. This means, that if you want to achieve the greatest amount of learning from this course, it is necessary to read the assigned material prior to class.

### **Additional Policies:**

### **Evaluation:**

Class Participation = 40%

Homework completion = 20%

Debate participation = 40%

### Grading Scale: Percentages/Grades

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

### Anticipated Weekly Course Schedule:

#### Spring 2019

Week	Topic
<b>Week 1</b>	Introduction to international law and history
<b>Week 2</b>	Introduction to international law and history cont.
<b>Week 3</b>	Law or War: Should the U.S. join the ICC
<b>Week 4</b>	Law or War: Should the U.S. join the ICC cont.
<b>Week 5</b>	Peace and Justice: Uganda child soldiers
<b>Week 6</b>	Peace and justice: local systems of justice
<b>Week 7</b>	Limits of Justice: The UN Security Council
<b>Week 8</b>	Limits of Justice: Trying World Leaders
<b>Week 9</b>	Can War Be Waged Legally: debate
<b>Week 10</b>	Can War Be Waged Legally: debate and reflections