International Law
Professor Mary Ellen O’Connell

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International law is constantly in the news. Consider the Iran nuclear deal achieved in July 2015; the indictment of FIFA executives in May 2015; the refugee crisis; the climate change talks scheduled for Paris in December 2015; international child custody battles; the South China Sea dispute, Cuba relations, the destruction of cultural heritage by ISIS, and armed conflicts to name a few examples.

This course will introduce the law behind these headlines. It is the law relevant law for activities that cross national boundaries. It is a complete system of law with its own methodology for law making, application and enforcement. International law is a critical tool for facing future challenges, as well as fulfilling aspirations for a better world. The importance of international law is so well understood that international law is a required course for law students at a number of U.S. law schools and in a number of countries for all law students, including China where international law is a required course at all 600 law faculties.

This course will introduce the international legal system in general, as well as the major subfields of international law such as international economic law, diplomatic law, law of the sea, human rights, law of armed conflict, environmental law, and international dispute resolution. International law is a pre-requisite for several advanced courses offered at Notre Dame, including International Law & the Use of Force (Law 73428) and International Art Law (Law 73402).

The course is designed for law students and other graduate students who have an interest in international affairs, especially peace studies students. The course will use the casebook, O’Connell, Scott, Roht-Arriaza, and Bradlow, The International Legal System (Foundation Press, 7th ed. 2015). It will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:40am to 10:55am in room 3130 of Eck Hall of Law.

If you have questions about the course, please contact the law school registrar, Anne Hamilton; Prof. O’Connell at maryellenoconnell@nd.edu, or her assistant, Tracy Zielke at tzielke@nd.edu.