This course is designed to acquaint students with the fundamental concepts of international law and its role in international relations. Class discussions explore the basis for international law and the current procedural, substantive, political, and legal issues facing the international community. Classes will consist of both lecture and discussion. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned material as well as current developments and issues in international law.

After taking this course students will be able to do the following:
- identify the sources of and perspectives on international law
- comprehend the complexity of the international legal environment
- recognize the political dimension of international law
- assess the arguments regarding the relevance and applicability of international law
- analyze the role of international law in addressing key international issues
- effectively argue a position on an international legal issue

Office Hours and Contact Information: My office is in 322 Curry. Office hours are 10-11 MWF and by appointment. My office phone number is 256-0518 and my email address is rjgriffi@uncg.edu.

Text: Between Peril and Promise: The Politics of International Law by J. Martin Rochester. Students are also required to read The New York Times and/or The Economist magazine on a regular basis. There will be some additional readings assigned and posted on Canvas as well.

Course Requirements: There will be two exams; a mid-term exam focusing primarily on legal terms and concepts and a final take-home essays that will require you to apply and analyze international law. Students will also be required to submit a 15-page research paper on a contemporary topic/issue in international law. Guidelines for the research paper will be posted on Canvas. You should clear the topics with me before beginning. This should take place by 8/31/2015. A 1-2-page proposal for a research paper with a draft introduction, thesis, and a preliminary annotated bibliography will be due 9/4/15. A first draft will be due on 10/10/14. The final draft of the paper will be due 11/19/13. There will also be a group project where students will be responsible for leading class discussion. Details of this assignment will be posted.

Make-up exams will be given only with medical documentation. Late written assignments will be penalized two points per day. No written assignments will be accepted after the last regular class period of the semester. Electronic submissions of written assignments are not allowed except by permission and only under extenuating circumstances. Class attendance is essential. I expect you to arrive on time, remain awake, and stay for the duration of class. You should only leave class for emergencies. Wandering in and out of class is distracting.

I encourage you to ask any questions you may have during class or raise relevant points from either the class reading, outside reading, or current developments. Class participation may help your final grade. All class discussions should be governed by both recognition of and respect for different interpretations and points of view.
**Policy on electronic devices:** The use of electronic devices is strictly prohibited in class. This includes laptop computers. **All phones and computers must be turned off and put away before class.** Using your phone or computer in class will cost you five points off your final grade for the first infraction, double that for a second.

**Assignments:** Dates for reading assignments are approximate.


8/24-8/28- Perspectives on International Law. Rochester, chap. 2.

8/31-9/4- Sources of International Law. Rochester, chap. 3.

9/9- 9/14- Actors in International Law. Additional readings posted.


9/28-10/5- Jurisdiction Over Territory. Rochester, pages 87-106.

10/7- Mid-term Exam


10/30-11/6- War and Peace. Rochester, chap. 6.


11/18-11/23- Group Discussions