The purpose of this course is to study critically some of the world’s supra-national rules and institutions that govern nations, groups of nations, sub-national groups of people, non-state international institutions and, in some cases, individuals using legal norms and structures. The course will have four major components: 1) an initial presentation by me on one of the major institutions employing legal norms and structures, 2) a detailed study by Prof. Herbert Hausmaninger of the structure and rules of the Court of Justice of the European Union and the European Court of Human Rights, 3) a series of class member presentations, that we will hear seriatim, guided by the member’s research, on one significant aspect of international governance or conflict resolution, and 4) a 15-page paper by each of you, either on the topic you selected for phase 3, or some other topic relevant to the course and approved by me. In addition to the final 15-page paper you will be expected to complete (and be graded on) the following: 1) the presentation including a 2-5 page outline of the initial topic you select for phase 3 (this outline must be submitted to me electronically at least twenty-fours in advance of the class presentation to allow me to read it and circulate it to the class), 2) a take-home examination on the material taught by Prof. Hausmaninger for his European Union courts section of the course, and 3) faithful attendance and participation in class. I will ask questions and make comments during the class presentations and I encourage all of you to participate as well.

You must select a relevant (to this course) presentation topic no later than the Friday on which Spring break begins. (We will need to set in each case the date of the presentation and you can see a number of the choices set out below.) The following is a list of representative topics: 1) the U.S. Constitution’s provisions on international law or the law of nations, 2) the structure and origins of the International Court of Justice (“ICJ”) or a particular decision by or pending piece of litigation in the ICJ (http://www.icj-cij.org/), 3) the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 4) the traditional meaning of “customary” international law, 5) a significant United States Supreme Court decision on the scope of international law, 6) any treaty or convention that the United States is a party to, including, for example, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty or the WTO, that has an internal dispute resolution mechanism or tribunal, 7) any treaty or convention that the United States has refused to become a party to, 7) any international institutional organization that functions in a legal manner, or 8) any other relevant topic agreed upon with me provided that it is based on one substantial original piece of international legal material. Your presentations must each be prefaced by a circulated outline and the presentation must occur using a Power Point that you have prepared and use to guide your talk.
We will have an outside speaker, Duane Krohnke (a Grinnell alum and faculty member at the university of Minnesota law school) on international commercial arbitration on April 6. We will likely have a dinner with Duane Krohnke on the evening of April 5 or April 6 at Grinnell House depending on everyone’s schedule.


We will meet twice a week until your presentations are completed. The paper is due at 5 pm on Friday, May 15 at Nollen House. I would be happy to read any draft provided I have twenty four hours to read it over. All drafts and papers should be submitted electronically due to my various travel obligations.

**Tuesday, January 26**

General Introduction: International Legal Institutions (No assignment) & Sources of International and Transnational Law

**Thursday, January 28**

Researching RKO’s Topic & RKO Presentation: Current Dispute Involving Iran, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and the United Nations Security Council

**Tuesday, February 2**

The European Community (Union) and its Institutional Structure (Assignment I in Booklet)

**Thursday, February 4**

Sources of EU Law (Assignment II)

**Tuesday, February 9**

The Court of Justice: Composition, Organization, Procedure (Assignment III)
Thursday, February 11

Types of Jurisdiction (Assignment IV)

Tuesday, February 16

The Court as Law-Maker (Assignment V)

Thursday, February 18

The ECJ and National Courts (Assignment VI)

Tuesday, February 23

The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Assignment VII)

Thursday, February 25

The ECtHR: Structure, Functions and Procedure (Assignment VIII)

Tuesday, March 2

Case Law and Its Impact on Member States (Assignment IX)

Thursday, March 4

The Two Courts: Relationship and Future Effects (Assignment X)

Tuesday, March 9

Take Home Test on European Court for Justice and ECtHR

Thursday, March 11

No Class

Tuesday, March 16

Thursday, March 18

Class Presentations

Spring Break

Tuesday, April 6

Duane Kronhke, Esq on International Commercial Arbitration and the International Criminal Court

Thursday, April 8

Class Presentations

Tuesday, April 13

Class Presentations
Thursday, April 15  
Class Presentations

Tuesday, April 20  
Class Presentations

Thursday, April 22  
Class Presentations

Tuesday, April 27  
Class Presentations

Thursday, April 29  
Class Presentations

Friday, May 21 5 p.m.  
Papers Due at Nollen House