

**BLAW 4480.001 (1721)**  
**International Law**  
**Spring 2021**

Instructor

Professor Houser

Please contact me through the Canvas Inbox tab (in the left column).

**Office:** BLB 358B

**Office Phone:** [940-565-3109](tel:940-565-3109)

TAs

Alivia Martin - [Aliviamartin@my.unt.edu](mailto:Aliviamartin@my.unt.edu)

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**Classes:**

BLAW4480.001 (1721) MW 3:30-4:50 PM (virtual synchronous class via Conferences)

(Please note that there will be a Monday class on January 11<sup>th</sup> held through Conferences through the Course Shell – you will receive an email invitation 5 minutes before class starts or may join from the link in the top right corner of the course shell)

**Office Hours:** Canvas - Conference after class and by appointment.

Class has been converted to online format with weekly virtual sessions for the spring semester.

**Required equipment:**

You will need to have a computer camera for taking exams (Respondus Lockdown).

**Required Textbook:**

Links to materials covered will be provided in course shell (open source)

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STANDARDS AND SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS**

According to UNT Policy 18.1.16, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. Academic sanctions will range from a warning to a failing grade in the course.

**ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive

and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct)

## ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](http://my.unt.edu). All official communication from the University will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/).

## ADA STATEMENT

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu).

## COVID-19

In a F2F class, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me *prior to being absent* as to what may be preventing you from coming to class so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class. Because all of the assignments have been made available as of the first day of class in the online version, working ahead can help avoid problems in submitting your work on time. Please remember that late work is not accepted. If you develop a condition that makes it impossible for you to complete this course, please contact the ADA office for directions on how to proceed.

If you are experiencing cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> (Links to an external site.)) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu)) or your health care provider. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

## RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about students' records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy.

## STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS (SPOT)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13 and 14 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via *IASystem* Notification" ([no-reply@iasystem.org](mailto:no-reply@iasystem.org)) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at [www.spot.unt.edu](http://www.spot.unt.edu) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

## SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, & ASSAULT

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: [http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources\\_0](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0) They can be reached at **UNT Survivor Advocate**, [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu). Renee McNamara is UNT's Associate Dean of Students and she can be reached through e-mail at [renee.mcnamara@unt.edu](mailto:renee.mcnamara@unt.edu) or [survivoradvocate@unt.edu](mailto:survivoradvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. For immediate help, contact the care team at [care.team@unt.edu](mailto:care.team@unt.edu). You are not alone. We are here to help.

## Course Description

Examination of selected aspects of the international legal environment affecting transnational commerce. Consideration of relevant U.S. constitutional, treaty and statutory provisions; international conventions and agreements; sovereign immunity and act of state doctrines, nationalization and expropriation.

## Course Objective

After taking this course, students will be able to

1. Explain international law and its role in business
2. Describe the impact of international law on trade
3. Analyze human right violations
4. Understand how diplomatic immunity works
5. Explain how laws of foreign countries impact U.S. citizens

## STUDENT EVALUATION:

Grades will be determined according to the following:

|                   |       |                     |      |
|-------------------|-------|---------------------|------|
| Discussion Forums | 200   | 2 @ 100 points each | 20%  |
| Exams             | 200   | 1 @ 200 points      | 20%  |
| Writing Prompts   | 200   | 2 @ 100 points      | 20%  |
| Presentation      | 400   | 1 @ 400 points      | 40%  |
| <hr/>             |       |                     |      |
| Total:            | 1,000 |                     | 100% |

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and/or true/false. They will not be cumulative. Make-up exams will be permitted only under extraordinary circumstances (e.g. flood, tornado, or pestilence) when **prior** permission has been obtained. Make-up exams may be essay questions.

The following grading scale will be used:

|           |              |   |
|-----------|--------------|---|
| 90–100%   | 900-1,000    | A |
| 80–89%    | 800-899      | B |
| 70–79%    | 700-799      | C |
| 60–69%    | 600-699      | D |
| Below 60% | 599 or below | F |

**Class schedule and syllabus subject to change.** Please always refer to the version posted in the course shell. CONSULT OFFICIAL, CURRENT UNIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR ADD/DROP, WITHDRAW AND OTHER KEY DATES, WHICH IS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE AS IF COPIED AT LENGTH HEREIN.

| Week | Date                | Topic  | Reading   | Deliverable   | Virtual Class session  |
|------|---------------------|--|---|---|--|
| 1    | Jan. 11 –<br>Jan 17 | What is International Law?   | <a href="#">Sources and Practice of International Law</a> |   | Monday during class time 1/11<br><br>Wednesday during class time 1/13 for all sections                   |
| 2    | Jan 18 –<br>Jan 24  | International Organizations  | <a href="#">Introduction to International Law</a>         | Discussion Forum 2 – Introduction<br><br>Initial post due W 1/20 11:55 pm<br><br>2 comments due Sat 1/23 11:55 pm (100) | Wednesday during class time 1/20   |
| 3    | Jan 25 –<br>Jan 31  | State Sovereignty  | <a href="#">State Sovereignty</a>                         | Week 3 – questions on readings (no grade)   | Post your questions on the reading Monday during class time 1/25<br><br>Wednesday during class time 1/27 |
| 4    | Feb. 1 –<br>Feb 7   | Amanda Knox case – U.S. citizens in foreign countries with different legal systems | <a href="#">Amanda Knox</a>                               | Exam M 2/1 open 3:30-4:15 pm (200)  | Take Exam 1 during Monday class time 2/1<br><br>Virtual session<br>Wednesday during class time 2/3       |
| 5    | Feb 8 –<br>Feb 14   | Civil v. Common Law Systems  |   | Writing Prompt 5 (100 points) – part 1  | Wednesday during class time 2/10   |

|    |                    |  |   |  |  |
|----|--------------------|--|---|--|--|
| 6  | Feb 15 –<br>Feb 21 | Amanda Knox case – facts                           | <a href="#">Amanda Knox</a>             | Week 6 – questions on readings and readings (no grade) – part 2  | Post your questions on the reading Monday during class time 2/15<br><br>Wednesday during class time 2/17 |
| 7  | Feb 22 –<br>Feb 28 | Harry Dunn case – Diplomatic immunity              | <a href="#">Time Article</a>            | Week 7 - questions on readings (no grade) – part 3   | Post your questions on the reading Monday during class time 2/22<br><br>Wednesday during class time 2/24 |
| 8  | Mar 1 –<br>Mar 7   | Prosecution of leaders for human rights violations | <a href="#">Human Rights violations</a> | Writing Prompt 8 (100 points)  | Post your questions on the reading Monday during class time 3/1<br><br>Wednesday during class time 3/3   |
| 9  | Mar 8 –<br>Mar 14  | Globalization                                      | <a href="#">Trade War paper</a>         | pp. 2-17 in-class discussion   | Wednesday during class time 3/10   |
| 10 | Mar 15 –<br>Mar 21 | Issues with the international transfer of data     | <a href="#">GDPR paper</a>              | pp. 1-13 in-class discussion   | Wednesday during class time 3/17   |
| 11 | Mar 22 –<br>Mar 28 | International Trade                                | <a href="#">AI Race paper</a>           | pp. 6-18 in-class discussion   | Wednesday during class time 3/24   |
| 12 | Mar 29 –<br>Apr 4  | Trade War impact on innovation                     |   | Discussion Forum 12<br><br>Initial post due W 3/31 11:55 pm<br><br>2 comments due Sat 4/3 11:55 pm (100) | Wednesday during class time 3/31   |

|    |                    |                |  |                     |  |
|----|--------------------|----------------|--|---------------------|--|
| 13 | Apr 5 –<br>Apr 11  | Presentations  |  | Presentations (400) | Monday and Wednesday<br>during class time 4/7  |
| 14 | Apr 12 –<br>Apr 18 | Presentations  |  | Presentations (400) | Monday and Wednesday<br>during class time 4/14 |
| 15 | Apr 19 –<br>Apr 21 | Course Summary |  | SPOT EVALS          | Wednesday during class<br>time 4/21            |
|    |                    |                |  |                     |  |

### Due Dates

Please note that late work cannot be accepted. All of the assignments are made available as of the first day of class. Please work ahead to prevent any issues should you have an unexpected emergency. For group projects, it is your responsibility to maintain contact with your group.

### Tech Support Hours – please keep these hours in mind when taking your exam

#### Phone, email, ticket, or chat support hours:

Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 11 a.m.– 3 p.m.

Call: [940-565-2324](tel:940-565-2324)

Chat: [Click Here](#)

Email: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

### Pronouns

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns.

You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](#) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- [What are pronouns and why are they important?](#)
- [How do I use pronouns?](#)
- [How do I share my pronouns?](#)
- [How do I ask for another person's pronouns?](#)
- [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](#)

*Additional Student Support Services*

- [Registrar](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration) (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
- [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)
- [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (<https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (<https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance>)
- [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>)

ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
- [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)

**Syllabus attachment** - [https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/Revised.06.049\\_Standard%20SyllabusStmt.pdf](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/Revised.06.049_Standard%20SyllabusStmt.pdf)