

International Law

Final Exam Activity
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You will write one scenario-question (and an answer for it) for the final examination. If the question is good enough, I will use it, or something similar to it, on the final.

Notice that my best in-class activities combined minute attention to detail with scenarios designed to poke and prod at the important questions in International Law. You need to do this with your written questions. I will not include all questions. I will include only what I deem to be acceptable. The grading of the questions is entirely subjective. If I like the question, it will receive a higher grade than if I do not like the question. To help you write better questions, here is a list of things to do and to do not.

Do:

- Make the questions focus on questions of International Law
- Make them intellectually interesting
- Set the scenario in the present
- Make them detail-rich

Do not:

- Ask for essays that are near impossible to write in two hours
- Invite answers that focus primarily on political or strategic considerations
- Make the questions hard to understand
- Require counter-factual hypotheses that seem very contrived

As expected, I reserve the right, the duty, to edit your proposed questions.

This assignment includes **both** the question and the answer. Your answer will be between two and three pages in length. It needs to follow the directions on the back of this paper. This assignment will be a part of the final examination grade; it is worth 10 points. It is due on December 1, 2009.

On the back...

On the back of this paper is the coversheet for the final examination. Be familiar with it. I reserve the right to change the numbers involved (like number of pages, number of questions, etc.).

The Coversheet for the Final:

This exam is designed to test how much of the material, both factual and conceptual, you are able to effectively *use*. As such, view these questions as guides that allow you to demonstrate your mastery of the material.

There are three sections of questions with options within each section. Each answer has a maximum response length of three pages (not including the bibliography); you should be pushing that limit on each answer. I will ignore any writing beyond the three-page limit. As with most things in International Law, the actual answer is not as important as the argument you present (although a ‘right’ answer is easier to defend successfully). With this (and the page limit) in mind, make sure your arguments are concise and clear and do not ramble.

The packet you hand in to me will include a title page, your answers, and a single reference list, which includes references from all of your answers. You are allowed to use **neither** Wikipedia (or other general-purpose references) **nor** the Slomanson text as sources in your answers. Thankfully, Slomanson provides very good citations that allow you to locate and use the original source. The quality of Wikipedia varies from article to article, but the better articles also include citations for your use. Any citation of treaties **must** come from the original treaties and not from a secondary source. The important treaties are easily found on the Internet. The United Nations has an online collection of all treaties deposited with them. The library here has online access to many International Law databases through its database portal (Law and Political Science).

A quick note on referencing treaties: The first time you mention a treaty, you need to give its full official name. If you have plans on using the treaty again, you will follow the full name with its shortened name in parentheses and quotation marks. Thereafter, you can use its shortened name without the quotation marks. For instance, at first mention, I would write: Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (“Outer Space Treaty”). From that point forward in the answer, I would just talk about the Outer Space Treaty. To cite from the treaty, use Article-Section notation. For instance: In dealing with archipelago states, UNCLOS defines territorial waters, in part, by drawing “straight archipelagic baselines joining the outermost points of the outermost islands and drying reefs of the archipelago” (Article 42, Section 1). You may abbreviate Article as ‘Art.’ and Section as ‘§’.

Note: Some of these questions deal with fictional states. In such cases, you are to apply general concepts of International Law and not state-specific alterations (unless spelled out in the question). In cases where a specific state is mentioned, you are to apply state-specific facts *from reality* to the case.

Finally, you may want to look at the style sheet for the course; it is *still* in effect. Any variation from the requirements in the style sheet will result in a loss of points. Pay attention to line spacing and font size.