

The Hague/Strasbourg and International Law (IR-341)
Spring 2015
Professor William Felice
Thursdays, 3:20-6:15

This “spring-into-summer” course explores international criminal law and the European approach to human rights, first in the classroom at Eckerd, and then for two weeks at The Hague (The Netherlands) and in Strasbourg (France). At these centers of international law, we will engage experts from the Council of Europe, European Court of Human Rights, International Criminal Court (ICC), International Court on the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and International Court of Justice (ICJ). In addition, we will hopefully also be able to attend court sessions of the ICC, ICTY, and other courts as well. The objective of the course is to deepen your knowledge of international law and human rights and to help you to gain a new understanding of the multilateralist human rights approach to foreign policy pursued in Europe. We will explore the degree to which this European human rights framework has impacted domestic law and policy. While at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, we will also meet with members of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, and the Gender and Anti-Trafficking Division. Eckerd College Trustee emeritus Gabriel Mazza, a former leading official at the Council of Europe, is helping to set up our meetings in Strasbourg.

Requirements:

Attendance and active participation is mandatory to all classes at Eckerd before leaving for Europe. **You are only allowed one unexcused absence. If you miss more than one class, your grade will be automatically lowered and you will be asked to withdraw from the class.**

Attendance and active participation is required at all meetings scheduled in The Hague and Strasbourg.

All readings must be completed according to the attached syllabus schedule. Students should be prepared for a series of quizzes and “think papers” on the reading assignments.

Research Paper and Oral Presentation: Each student will submit an 8 to 10 page research paper analyzing and summarizing either a current case or the work of one of the courts/agencies we will be visiting. You will also summarize your research findings in an oral presentation to the class. In addition to the individual case/agency you will be researching, you will also work with the other students assigned to your court/agency. Each group will explore other projects underway at the court/agency and present these orally to the class as well. Specific guidelines for this assignment will be distributed.

Grades will be determined as follows:	
Class Participation at Eckerd	25%
Research Paper and Oral Presentation	25%
Readings (think-papers and quizzes)	25%
Active participation and engagement at our meetings in The Hague and Strasbourg	25%

Readings:

Michael Goldhaber, *A People’s History of the European Court of Human Rights* (Rutgers University Press, 2007).

Ian Hurd, *International Organizations* (Cambridge, 2011). Chapter 8, “The International Court of Justice,” (186-216).

Geoffrey Robertson, *Crimes Against Humanity: The Struggle for Global Justice* (The New Press, 2006). Chapters 9 and 10 (372-467).

Kathryn Sikkink, *The Justice Cascade: How Human Rights Prosecutions Are Changing World Politics* (Norton, 2011).

Office Hours:

Mondays: 1:00—3:00pm
 Wednesdays: 3:30—5:00pm
 Fridays: 1:00—3:00pm
 Or, by appointment.

Please stop by my office to discuss any questions or concerns about the class (or to chat).

Honor Code:

All students are expected to uphold the Eckerd College honor code:

“On my honor as an Eckerd College student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to tolerate these behaviors in others.”

You are required to write “pledged” on every assignment to indicate your work is consistent with the Honor Code.

Schedule

- Jan 29 Overview and Introduction
- Feb 5 Film: “The Reckoning: The Battle for the ICC”
- Feb 12 Film: “Milosevic on Trial” (ICTY)
- Feb 19 Film: “Women and War” (Sierra Leone Tribunal)
- March 26 Human Rights Prosecutions and World Politics
Reading: Sikkink, entire book, 1-262
- April 2 ICJ
Reading: Hurd, “The ICJ”, 186-216

Oral Presentations:
ICJ group: Daniela Baeza
Kathleen McLean
Teresa Young
- April 9 ICTY
Reading: Robertson, chapter 9 (372-418)

Oral Presentations:
ICTY group: Claire Russell
Spencer Yaffe
- April 16 ICC
Reading: Robertson, chapter 10 (419-467)

Oral Presentations:
ICC group: Niki Gates
Ethan O’Dell
Aino Pihlava
Meg Walker
- April 23 Council of Europe
Reading: Goldhaber, Part I, “The Expanding Ambit of Personal Life,” (1-66).
Oral Presentations:
CoE Group: Emilie Higgins
Kaitlyn Sibson

OPCW: Luke Connolly

April 30 ECHR
Reading: Goldhaber, Parts II-V (67-185)

Oral Presentations:
ECHR Group: Daira Brayley
Taylor Hedge

May 7 Final Briefing before leaving for Europe.

May 21 Travel to Strasbourg

May 22 – 29 Meetings in Strasbourg

May 30 Travel to The Hague

May 31 - June 9 Meetings in Strasbourg

June 10 Travel home