First Assignment

International Law Spring 2019

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Please read the assignment set out below and be prepared to discuss the listed questions.

TEXT


No Laptops During Class

This course does not lend itself to laptop note-taking. Surveys report that students are more satisfied with the learning environment in no-laptop courses. Although some students prefer to use laptops, a larger number of students in the surveys say that classrooms are quieter, they can hear the teacher and other students better, and they feel more engaged in the classroom experience with fewer distractions. Accordingly, in International Law you may not use a laptop, iPad, smartphone or any other electronic device, during class. If these devices are on your desk, or in your lap during class, I will assume you are using them.

Class #1
pp. 29-54

Chapter 2. Treaties

A. The Sources of International Law
B. A Treaty Sampler
   The Treaty Between the Jews and the Romans (Circa 160 B.C.)
   The Peace of Westphalia (1648)
   The Treaty of Paris (1783)
   The Cession of Alaska (1867)
   The Kellogg-Briand Pact (1928)

1. Why do states continue to make treaties?
2. What sanctions or features make states willing to comply with treaty terms?
3. Treaties often serve the same purposes or functions that contracts, statutes, constitutions, and aspirational statements (‘We hold the following truths to be self-evident—that all men are created equal;’ ‘I pledge allegiance to the flag…’) serve in domestic law. What exactly are those purposes or functions?
4. Which of these purposes or functions are addressed in the treaties in the Sampler?
5. How are treaties entered into? What is the point of ceremony and formality? When are they useful?