

Space Law

Class # 22560

Fall 2024

University of Florida Levin College of Law

Course Information

1 Credit

Aug. 12 (M) 9:00am-12:00pm

Aug. 13-14 (T/W) 1:00pm-4:00pm

Aug. 15 (Th) 9:00am-12:00pm

Aug. 16 (F) 9:00am-11:00am

Contact Information

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Course Description and Learning Objectives

This course will provide an overview of core topics in the study of space law from both domestic and international law perspectives. Students will gain an understanding of legal theories underlying space law and their application in a growing commercial space market. Topics will include jurisdiction, liability, and insurance of space objects and astronauts; state regulation of commercial space activities (e.g. satellites, GPS); environmental space law and space resource utilization; and the law of armed conflict in outer space.

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Analyze the treaties, conventions, and underlying legal principles that structure relations between spacefaring actors.
- Discuss the U.S. role in defining and redefining the “rules of the road” in space exploration and resource utilization.
- Understand how the growing space economy has led to new applications of existing bodies of law.
- Identify emerging problems associated with increasing space activity and the shortcomings of current legal regimes.

Course Materials

The textbook for this course is *International Space Law and Space Laws of the United States*; by Steve Mirmina and Caryn Schenewerk. (You will notice that the bulk of the course readings are frontloaded.)

Course Website

<http://elearning.ufl.edu/> Students are responsible for reviewing the Canvas page for course updates.

Office Hours

Scheduled office hours will occur the hour preceding class on Wednesday (Aug. 14) from noon-1:00pm and the hour following class on Thursday (Aug. 15) from noon until 1:00pm. Aside from these listed office hours, I will arrange to be available by appointment. I encourage you to call or email me if you are having difficulties with, or simply want to clarify your understanding of, any of the materials covered in the reading or in class. My contact information is at the top of this syllabus.

ABA Out-Of-Class Hours Requirements

ABA Standard 310 requires that students devote 120 minutes to out-of-class preparation for every “classroom hour” of in-class instruction.

Attendance

This is a compressed course and attendance is mandatory. Absences may negatively impact your grade. University attendance policy may be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Grading

Your final grade will be based on an end-of-course paper. Your paper will focus on a topic we covered in class. You are welcome to meet with me to discuss your paper topic ahead of time. The paper should be no longer than 10 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font. The paper is due by August 23, 2024 at 11:59pm EST.

Information on current UF grading policies may be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

The law school grading policy, including grade distribution policy, is available at

<https://www.law.ufl.edu/life-at-uf-law/office-of-student-affairs/current-students/academic-policies#3>

University Policy on Academic Misconduct

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’” The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

University Policy on Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations typically are open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open.

Accommodations

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities should register first with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>). The Center will provide documentation to the student who then must provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting an accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments. Because accommodations are not retroactive, students should contact the Disability Resource Center as soon as possible in the semester for which they are seeking accommodation.

Getting Help

For technical difficulties with E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- helpdesk@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP
- <http://elearning.ufl.edu/> (See “Message Us” at the top)

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for counseling and wellness, disability resources, student complaints, and library help desk support.

UF Levin College of Law Standard Syllabus Policies

Other information about UF Levin College of Law policies, including compliance with the UF Honor Code, Grading, Accommodations, Class Recordings, and Course Evaluations can be found at this link: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/427635/files/74674656?wrap=1>.

Course Schedule Detail

Class Date	Topic	Reading Assignments
08/12/24	International space law	Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4
08/13/24	NASA, the FAA, and the commercial space regulatory regime	Chapters 6 and 7
08/14/24	DOD and national security	Chapters 10 and 13

	issues in outer space	<u>Speaker:</u> TBA
08/15/24	Remote sensing, space commerce, and space weather Environmental issues in outer space	Chapters 8 and 12 <u>Speaker:</u> Michelle L.D. Hanlon – co-founder, president and CEO of For All Moonkind; Exec. Director of the Center for Air and Space Law at the University of Mississippi School of Law.
08/16/24	Commercial space communications	Chapter 9 <u>Speaker:</u> Steven Mirmina – Senior Attorney, NASA Office of the General Counsel; Adjunct Professor of Law, Georgetown University.