

Term Paper Prospectus

Provide a 2-page (double-spaced) statement of your chosen research topic, plus a list of sources you have consulted so far. I want to see that you have made an initial foray into the topic and determined that it is viable as a term project. This means establishing that the question is of interest—to you, and to readers like me—and that there are sufficient research materials available (books, articles, documents, etc.) for you to examine the question at greater length and to explore possible answers. This may also mean that you will want to read, ahead of schedule, some of the assigned items on the syllabus. The prospectus is due on Monday, 21 April.

Research topics should not be too broad or too abstract and theoretical. Your topic will surely engage international legal concepts or theories—legal personality, unlawful combatancy, universal jurisdiction, sovereign immunity, etc. But your research should concentrate on a concrete event or case (e.g., the humanitarian intervention in Kosovo), a legal debate or controversy (e.g., the status of the Guantánamo detainees), or the workings of an international legal institution (e.g., the ICC). The empirical focus of your paper may be either historical or contemporary.

Undergraduates: If you intend to write a term paper instead of taking the final exam, you must submit this term paper prospectus by the due date. You will be permitted to change your mind and take the final exam if the paper project is not going as well as you would like. If you do not submit a prospectus, however, you are recommitting to the final exam; you will not be permitted to change your mind and write a term paper. *Graduates:* The final exam is not an option; you must submit a term paper prospectus.

In the course of your research, you may find the following websites useful:

- [LexisNexis](#). PSU is a subscriber to this service, which provides access to a number of legal resources, including law journal articles and U.S. and non-U.S. court cases. To access LexisNexis from off-campus, you will need to use the library [portal](#) and enter your Odin username and password (then click the *Legal* tab at the top of the next screen).
- United Nations [Treaty Series](#). The text of many, but not all, multilateral agreements are available here. You can also find summaries of multilateral and bilateral agreements dating back to 1873 in the [Cumulative Index](#). The [status of treaties](#) deposited with the UN—who has signed and ratified them, and with what declarations (if any)—is also available.
- The [Avalon Project](#) at Yale Law School has collected volumes of international legal and diplomatic documents stretching back to the 18th century, including all the major agreements on the [laws of war](#).
- United Nations [Security Council](#) and [General Assembly](#) resolutions.
- Cases heard by of the [International Court of Justice](#) (1946-) and the [Permanent Court of International Justice](#) (1922-1946). Although there are only a few at the moment, you can also get information about situations and cases before the [International Criminal Court](#).