

## **Political Geography of the Oceans** **Contemporary Economic Issues: Governing the Ocean Economy**

**Geography 435 and Economics 496**  
**Spring, 2006**  
**St John 011**

**Professor Alison Rieser**  
**Saunders Hall 440**  
**T, Th 1:30 – 2:45 pm**

**Office hours: Mon, 10:30-12; Thurs 3-4:00 pm, or by appt.**

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**Course description:** This course is an introduction to the principles and institutions that govern the world's oceans and the major ocean-based economic activities, including shipping, fishing, mining, energy development, research, and marine life conservation. It reviews the history and key concepts of the international law of the sea and the emergence of the current zones of maritime jurisdiction, with a focus on the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone. Other regimes affecting the ocean economy include rights of navigation through coastal waters and international straits, rights to the mineral resources of the continental shelf and deep seabed, and rights and responsibilities for fishing on the high seas. The second half of the course will consider conflicts over some of these economic activities in particular ocean regions, including the Southern Ocean, the South Pacific, and the Arctic Ocean and the Barents Sea. Students will learn the principal economic activities in the oceans and the ways in which laws for their governance are created and enforced through national, international, and non-governmental mechanisms.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Course Requirements and Evaluation:** There will be approximately 40-50 pages of readings per week, drawn from a variety of sources, most of which will be on reserve at Sinclair Library. Students are expected to read the materials in advance of class and arrive prepared to discuss the materials and to ask and answer questions. Grades will be determined based on two exams, a mid-term (30%) and a final (30%), and on two in-class presentations: a 3-4 person group presentation on the resources, issues and institutions for one of 10 ocean basins (20%) and an oral position paper on one of nine or so debate questions (20%). Details of the two in-class presentations will be provided in a future handout. Final grades for the course will use the +/- grading option.

**Attendance:** After the first week of classes, attendance is mandatory and will be taken on a random, unannounced basis. Please consult with the instructor at the start of the semester if there are specific class sessions that you cannot attend. Four unexcused absences will result in a reduction in your grade by one increment (e.g., from a B- to a C+). The instructor reserves the right to reduce a grade by one increment for poor classroom citizenship. This includes chronic lateness or early departure or frequent leaving of the lecture room for refreshment or bathroom breaks. Cell phones should be turned off unless you are expecting a call from a sick relative and have notified the

instructor ahead of time. The instructor also reserves the right to add other behaviors to the definition of poor class citizenship.

**Course Materials:** Most of the readings will be on reserve at Sinclair Library, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in the Wong AV Center. These will include books and videos. Handouts and articles available on the UHM Library electronic resources will also be assigned. To find online versions of articles listed on the syllabus or assigned in class, go to the Hawaii Voyager Library Catalog URL:  
<http://uhmanoa.lib.hawaii.edu/webvoy.htm>

Click on Online Resources and enter the journal name in the search box. Later in the semester, a course web page may provide links to assigned and optional readings, or readings may be on electronic reserve at Sinclair Library.

**Books on reserve for the semester at Sinclair are:**

Cuyvers, Luc, *Ocean Uses and Their Regulation*, **JX 4411 .C89 1984**  
Friedheim, Robt, ed., *Toward a Sustainable Whaling Regime*, **SH 381 .T68 2001**  
Glassner, Martin, *Neptune's Domain: A Political Geography of the Sea*, **JX 4411 .G55**  
United Nations, *The Law of the Sea Convention*, **JX 4421 .L38 1983b**

**Schedule of Weekly Topics (subject to revision)**

***I. Introduction: History of the International Law of the Sea; Maritime Jurisdiction***

- Jan 10, 12      Overview of the course; introduction to ocean law issues  
Reading: Neptune's Domain, pp. 1-17;  
skim Guide to the Oceans, pp. 168-221 (and select ocean for later presentation); Video: "Who Owns the Oceans?"
- Jan 17, 19      history of the Law of the Sea and maritime zones; **no class on Jan 19<sup>th</sup>**.  
Reading: Neptune's Domain, pp. 18-34.
- Jan. 24, 26      US policy regarding the 1982 LOS Convention; 1994 UN Agreement on Part XI (deep seabed mining regime); LOSC's dispute settlement provisions & the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea

***II. Freedom of Navigation and Coastal and Strait States' Authority***

- Jan 31, Feb 2      Vessel registration and nationality; flags of convenience; responsibilities of flag states; the Prestige oil spill disaster and related legal developments

"Spain, The Lawless Sea," a PBS Frontline documentary, online at  
[www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/spain](http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/spain)

Please watch the video and read “The Story”, “Hiding Behind the Flag”, “Interview with Mark Schapiro”, and “The Paper Trail.” If time permits, look at some of the items under “Links & Resources.” These links include a link to the International Maritime Organization’s web site.

Feb 7 Authority of port states, coastal states, and straits states to control foreign-flag oil tankers and military vessels in their waters; controversy over plutonium shipments

M. Detjen. 2005. The Western European PSSA – Testing a unique international concept to protect imperiled marine ecosystems, Marine Policy, article in press, available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

Jon Van Dyke. 2005. The disappearing right to navigational freedom in the exclusive economic zone. Marine Policy vol. 29, pp. 107-121.

Feb. 9 Review of rights of navigation

In Handout (McDorman et al., *International Ocean Law* (2005)):

Review concepts of: Vessel registration and nationality; Flags of Convenience; responsibilities of flag states  
See Ch. 3, pp 147-154

Review concepts of: authority of port states, coastal states, and straits states to control foreign-flag oil tankers in adjacent waters  
See Ch. 3, pp. 200-223

Passage rights: innocent passage, transit passage through straits, and archipelagic sea lanes passage; passage rights of warships.  
Ch. 3, pp. 162-200

Coastal States and the shipping of spent nuclear fuel  
Ch. 3, pp. 223-229  
Ch. 5, pp. 1-3, 11-15, 28-30

Optional reading on Greenpeace’s campaign against shipments of spent nuclear fuel, see materials and links at:  
<http://archive.greenpeace.org/nuclear/bnfl/campaign.htm>

### ***III. Living Marine Resources and the Economics of High Seas Fisheries***

Feb. 14 coastal States’ rights and responsibilities regarding fish stocks and fishing in their EEZs

Glassner: pp. 72-77

Handout: ch. 4, pp. 231-254

- Feb. 16 rights and responsibilities of States fishing on the high seas  
Handout: pp. 264-279
- Feb. 21 The Driftnet fishing moratorium; the Precautionary Approach  
Handout: Ch. Five, pp. 11-15 (review); Ch. Six, pp. 10-27.
- Feb. 23 The 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement; Regional fisheries management organizations  
Handout: pp. 279-298
- Feb. 28 Defining overfishing; Basics of fisheries conservation and management; Status of global fisheries  
  
(1) “Fished Out: The Rise & Fall of the Cod Fishery,” a Canadian Broadcasting Corp. web page:  
[http://archives.cbc.ca/IDD-1-73-1595/politics\\_economy/cod\\_economy/](http://archives.cbc.ca/IDD-1-73-1595/politics_economy/cod_economy/)  
Scroll down to “additional clips” and view “Grand Banks protest,” “Rex Murphy ...” and “Science subverted?” On main page, click on #9, “To the last fish” and view 9-minute video originally broadcast on May 14, 2003.  
  
(2) For background on the collapse of Atlantic cod stocks in the North Sea, go to <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/2590479.stm> and click on links to Background & analysis.
- Mar. 2 No new assignments. Please review all readings assigned to date in preparation for review.
- Mar. 7 CUMULATIVE REVIEW – bring questions to class
- Mar. 9 **Mid-term exam**
- Mar. 14 tuna fisheries management in the Pacific; tuna farming; status of large pelagic fishes and associated ecosystems  
Reading assignment: TBA
- Mar. 16 managing the Southern Bluefin Tuna: Japan, Int’l Law and Environmental Politics, Guest speaker: Prof. Yoichiro Sato, Asia-Pacific Ctr for Security Studies
- Mar. 21 Controversy over global moratorium on commercial whaling; International Whaling Commission; Japan’s scientific whaling

