**Space Law**

Spring 2022

University of Florida Levin College of Law

**Course Information**

1 Credit

Jan. 10 – 14 (MTWH) 9:30am-12:20pm

Jan. 15 (F) 9:30am-11:20am

**Contact Information**

Trevor Tezel

Email: trevortezel@gmail.com

Phone: 321-806-9164

**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**

No textbook is required for this course. All materials will be provided in PDF format. See the

Canvas page to access reading materials.

**Course Website**

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

updates.

**Office Hours**

Scheduled office hours will occur immediately following class on Tuesday (Jan. 11) and

Thursday (Jan. 13) from 12:20pm until 1:30pm. 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.

**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>

**Class Preparation and Participation**

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

**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 January 28, 2022 at 11:59pm EST.

Participation may also be factored into your final grade but will count for no more than a one-step increase in your final grade.

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 facilities 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. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at:

<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

**Accommodations**

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities should register first with the Office of the Dean of Students (https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Office of the Dean of Students 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 Office of the Dean of Students 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](mailto: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.

**Course Schedule Detail**

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| **Class Date** | **Topic** | **Reading Assignments** |
| 01/10/22 | Space, defined & the Outer Space Treaty  The Liability Convention  The Registration Convention | [The Outer Space Treaty of 1967](https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/treaties/outerspacetreaty.html%20) (Skim)  *Space Law: A Treatise*, pp. 143-162.  “Legal Issues Relating to the Global Public Interest in Outer Space,” pp. 31-55.  “The Rule of Law in Outer Space,” pp. 1-8.  “Liability Limitation under National Law and the Liability Convention,” pp. 416-423.  “The Applicability of the Registration Convention to Private Commercial Manned Sub-orbital Spaceflight,” pp. 15-21. |
| 01/11/22 | Astronauts  Jurisdiction and licensing in U.S. context  Insurance for  space activities | *Space Law: A Treatise*, pp. 117-134.  *Space Law: A Treatise*, pp. 413-418; 437-445.  “Effective Exercise of In-Space Jurisdiction,” pp. 169-185.  “Legal and Regulatory Challenges to Leveraging Insurance for Commercial Space,” pp. 29-44.  Issue Identification/Rule Application Hypothetical: *Mission Impossible* in Space |
| 01/12/22 | Space traffic management & space debris | “Space Traffic Management Standards,” pp. 1-18.  “Solving the Space Debris Crisis,” pp. 1-29.  Issue Identification/Rule Application Hypothetical: The Nauka module incident |
| 01/13/22 | The Space Act of 1958  Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act of 2015 (CSLCA)  The Artemis Accords | [National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958](https://history.nasa.gov/spaceact.html) (Skim)  “One Small Step: The Impact of the U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act of 2015 on the Exploration of Resources in Outer Space,” pp. 160-186.  [The Artemis Accords](https://www.nasa.gov/specials/artemis-accords/img/Artemis-Accords-signed-13Oct2020.pdf%20%20)  “The Artemis Accords: Evolution or Revolution in International Space Law?” pp. 799-819.  Speaker: Christian J. Robison, space law attorney and author of the above reading re: CSLCA. |
| 01/14/22 | Satellites & GPS  Military use of outer space | “International Regulation of GNSS,” pp. 1-20.  *Space Law: A Treatise*, pp. 454-471.  Speaker: Marshall McKellar, space law attorney and author of forthcoming book regarding the adaptation of terrestrial legal systems to extraterrestrial human settlements, based on legal historical analysis. |