

Fall 2026 - Space Law Course

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

The major objectives are to provide a basic understanding of the legal regime governing outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies. In providing this basic understanding the course would start with an analysis of the development of space law and fundamental legal principles applicable to outer space. After providing a basic understanding, the course will then concentrate on recent developments and more specific topics in space law which include Artemis Accords, property rights and claim of sovereignty over outer space and celestial bodies, Outer Space Treaty requirement that are applicability to new proposed activities in space, commercialization and privatization of low earth orbit. The course will also cover the very recent developments at a national level by examining recent U.S. developments in the areas of space law and policy.

Generally Applicable Syllabus Information

This document sets forth course policy for attendance, preparation and participation, use of computers, examination and grading, and other items.

Class Schedule and Other Information

Name: Space Law

Course #5216 Space Law Section #: 26706

Time: Monday, 1730 - 1930. (1 class session per week, 2 credit hours; 120 minutes per class session)

(2 credit hours is 108 minutes of class time at 54 minutes per credit hour across 13 semester weeks) If we are able to do the full 120 minutes, I can allow for one less class. Also since this class begins and ends on a Monday it will have 14 classes as opposed to the required 13 classes. To be discussed the first class.

Adjunct Professor: Rebecca M. Bresnik; rebamae21@gmail.com

Office Hours: By appointment. The best way to contact me is via email at the above e-mail. I will provide a phone number at the beginning of class.

Required Text: Francis Lyall and Paul B. Larsen, Space Law: A Treatise (3rd ed. 2024) (publisher: Taylor & Francis Group)

The Book can be bought at numerous websites and is offered in hardcover, softcover or e-Copy.

1) [Space Law: Lyall, Francis, Larsen, Paul B.: 9781032803395: Amazon.com: Books](#)

Documents will be assigned from sources other than the casebook. These documents will be provided via links in the class assignment table below or via email. Paper copies of these documents will not be provided, so students should plan to print them or review them electronically. The casebook will be a primary source of reading; however, the class will not cover the complete book.

Other Resources:

Prerequisites: A basic International Law course would be helpful

Grading:

The course grade will be based on an open-materials final exam given in person at the time and date as scheduled by the Law Center which will be worth 80% of your grade. My assessment of your in-class participation performance and a small project will consist of the final 20% of your grade.

Brief Description of Coverage:

This class will meet once each week. Assignments will be finalized a month in advance in the table below as the semester progresses. The assignments for the first month are as shown below.

Absences Limit:

Assuming 1 class meetings per week, three or less absences constitute attendance meeting the eighty percent requirement.

More than three absences means that the eighty percent requirement is not met. Attendance will be taken via a roll sheet passed out during each class session.

Computer Usage:

Use of personal computers for taking notes is permitted. Surfing the web and texting during class is not permitted.

Remote Presence:

Students will be attending class remotely via video conferencing software via TEAMS. However, **the first two classes will be held in person.**

Requirements: (i) your computer must have a working video camera and quality audio capability, joining by audio-only will be treated as an absence (you may need an external mic or headset for sufficient audio quality); (ii) you must identify yourself with your class roll name in the TEAMS videoconferencing software; (iii) you must present your face and upper body area appropriately in the video stream; (iv) you must be able to fulfill your responsibilities if called on to discuss a case or course materials; and (v) you must manage the mute "button" when remote to keep a professional demeanor. Lawyers increasingly work through internet video conferencing.

Everyone will be required to use this capability.

Final Exam:

Final Exam Date/Time: To be provided (Will be an in-person exam)

First day/week's assignment:

Read this course web page and the assignments detailed in the table below for the first day/week of class.

Guest Speakers: Dates of guest speakers are still being finalized
Class Evaluation Day TBD

Course Coverage Table

The table below provides the detailed assignments for this course and **are TENTATIVE**. It also may provide links to materials for each class and other items related to the course. In order to allow flexibility in the class, assignments beyond those posted for the next week are subject to change; therefore, students who may wish to read ahead are urged to contact the professor before doing so. However, the assignments for the next two weeks ahead should be fairly firm. The rate of progress through the modules depends on the class dynamics.

Date of Class	Topic(s) to be Covered	Materials to be Read
Aug 24 (In Person)	Introduction to Space Law and its Origins/International Law Origins	Space Law –Lyall and Larson Pgs. 1 - 48
Aug 31 (In Person)	Early Treaties Governing Activities in Outer Space	ST/SPACE/61/Rev.2, 2017. International Space Law: United Nations Instruments English
Sept 7	HOLIDAY-Labor Day (No Class)	
Sept 14 and Sept 21	The “Outer Space Treaty” - Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2222 (XXI), opened for signature on 27 January 1967, entered into force on 10 October 1967 Main concepts: “For the benefit of all mankind” - Outer Space and celestial bodies are not subject to national appropriation - No weapons of mass destruction are allowed in Outer Space - The moon and celestial bodies shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes - States shall be responsible for their national activities in space whether carried on by governmental or non-governmental entities - The activities of non-governmental entities in outer space shall require the authorization and continuing supervision by the appropriate State	Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies - Space Law –Lyall and Larson, pgs. 49 -74

	• States shall retain jurisdiction and control over their space objects and any personnel thereon • States shall be liable for damage caused by their space objects • States shall avoid the harmful contamination of space	
Sept 28	The “Rescue Agreement” • Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2345 (XXII), opened for signature on 22 April 1968, entered into force on 3 December 1968	• Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space • Space Law –Lyall and Larson, pgs. Astronauts 116 – 138, Space Objects 89 - 94
Oct 5	The “Registration Convention” • Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 3235 (XXIX), opened for signature on 14 January 1975, entered into force on 15 September 1976	• Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space • Space Law –Lyall and Larson, pgs. 75 - 115
Oct 12 and Oct 19	The “Liability Convention” • Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2777 (XXVI), opened for signature on 29 March 1972, entered into force on 1 September 1972 Specific Case Examples See also: https://www.npr.org/2024/06/23/nx-s1-5016923/space-debris-nasa-florida-home-lawsuit	• Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects • Space Law –Lyall and Larson, pgs. 94 – 109 Settlement of Claim between Canada and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for Damage Caused by "Cosmos 954" (6 pgs) (Released on April 2, 1981)
Oct 26	The “Moon Treaty” • Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/68, opened for signature on 18 December 1979, entered into force on 11 July 1984.	

	I did not include dates below since there will likely be changes based on how quickly we move through the materials and when we can fit guest speakers in.					
	Artemis Accords	Artemis Accords - NASA https://www.nasa.gov/artemis-accords/				
	Legal Structure of the International Space Station and Lunar Gateway a. ISS IGA and MOUs b. Gateway MOUs	Space Law –Lyll and Larson, pgs. 109 – 112, 115, 115n220 (intellectual property), 127(criminal Activity) International Space Station Intergovernmental Agreement https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/107683.pdf ISS MOUs with Partner Countries <table><tr><td>NASA-CSA Agreement</td></tr><tr><td>+ NASA-ESA Agreement</td></tr><tr><td>+ NASA-RSA Agreement</td></tr><tr><td>+ NASA-Japan Agreement</td></tr></table>	NASA-CSA Agreement	+ NASA-ESA Agreement	+ NASA-RSA Agreement	+ NASA-Japan Agreement
NASA-CSA Agreement						
+ NASA-ESA Agreement						
+ NASA-RSA Agreement						
+ NASA-Japan Agreement						
	Living and Working on the ISS--Astronaut Presentation ISS Crew Code of Conduct	ISS Crew Code of Conduct Space Law –Lyll and Larson, pgs. 127 - 128				
	Property/Minerals Rights in and from Space • Ownership of Resources and Real Property on/from space • Ownership of Relics brought back to earth	Space Law –Lyll and Larson, pgs. 77- 78, 176- 192 TBD				
	ITU Legal Structure—Guest Speaker	Space Law –Lyll and Larson, pgs. 201 - 239				

	Planetary Defense/Space Debris and Legal Policies/Issues	Space Law –Lyall and Larson, pgs. U.S. Government Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard Practices, 2000 U.N. Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines IADC Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines Compendium of space debris mitigation standards adopted by States and international organizations, Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Legal Subcommittee Fifty-third session, Vienna, 24 March-4 April 2014 Space Policy Directive-3, National Space Traffic Management Policy, June 18, 2018
	Commercial Activities in Space Possible topics: Spaceports Commercial Activities Commercial Space Stations Legal issues raised regarding the above	Space Law –Lyall and Larson

Optional Additional Reading and Topics	The five General Assembly Resolutions 1) The "Declaration of Legal Principles" 2) The "Broadcasting Principles" 3) The Principles Governing the Use by States of Artificial Earth Satellites for International Direct Television Broadcasting 4) The "Remote Sensing Principles" The "Nuclear Power Sources" Principles	Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Uses of Outer Space General Assembly resolution 1962 (XVIII) of 13 December 1963 The Principles Governing the Use by States of Artificial Earth Satellites for International Direct Television Broadcasting General Assembly resolution 37/92 of 10 December 1982 The Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space General Assembly resolution 41/65 of 3 December 1986 The Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space General Assembly resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992
---	--	--

	National Space Council	President Re-Establishes National Space Council, Executive Order, June 30, 2017 Space Policy Directive -1, December 11, 2017, Presidential Memorandum on Reinvigorating America's Human Space Exploration Program President Donald J. Trump is Unveiling an America First National Space Strategy, Issued on: March 23, 2018 Space Policy Directive-2, Streamlining Regulations on Commercial Use of Space, Issues May 24, 2018 National Space Council's Users Advisory Group Space Policy Directive-3, National Space Traffic Management Policy, June 18, 2018
--	-------------------------------	---

Optional Additional Reading and Topics	Intellectual Property Rights in Space —Guest Speaker (INSKNA, Wolf Amendment)	Space Law –Lyall and Larson, pgs. 113 – 115, 381 - 388, 387, 456 -7
Optional Additional Reading and Topics	The Military Use of Outer Space The “Space Force” Review for Exam	Space Law –Lyall and Larson, pgs. 427 - 463
Nov 30	LAST DAY OF CLASSES	

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):

The University of Houston has a number of resources to support students’ mental health and overall wellness, including CoogsCARE and the UH Go App. UH Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers 24/7 mental health support for all students, addressing various concerns like stress, college adjustment and sadness. CAPS provides individual and couples counseling, group therapy, workshops and connections to other support services on and off-campus. For assistance visit uh.edu/caps, call 713-743-5454, or visit a Let’s Talk location in-person or virtually. Let’s Talk are daily, informal confidential consultations with CAPS therapists where no appointment or paperwork is needed.

The Student Health Center offers a Psychiatry Clinic for enrolled UH students. Call 713-743-5149 during clinic hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment.

The A.D. Bruce Religion Center offers spiritual support and a variety of programs centered on well-being.

Need Support Now? - If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call CAPS crisis support 24/7 at 713-743-5454, or the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988, or chat 988lifeline.org.

The Texas Lawyers’ Assistance Program (“TLAP”) also supports law students who are dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and other mental health problems. You can reach TLAP at any time at 1-800-343-8527. TLAP’s website includes a page with links to sources about mental health that are of interest to law students: <https://www.tlaphelps.org/law-students>.

Reasonable Academic Adjustments/Auxiliary Aids

The University of Houston is committed to providing an academic environment and educational programs that are accessible for its students. Any student with a disability who is experiencing barriers to learning, assessment or participation is encouraged to contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center (Dart Center) to learn more about academic accommodations and support that may be available to them. Students seeking academic accommodations will need to register with the Dart Center as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation of approved accommodations. Please contact the Dart Center by visiting the website: <https://uh.edu/accessibility/> calling (713) 743-5400, or emailing jdcenter@Central.UH.EDU.

If you observe religious or cultural holidays that will coincide with synchronous class sessions or conferences, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we may make arrangements.

Preferred Name / Pronoun Syllabus Statement

I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

Title IX/Sexual Misconduct

Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the Title IX website at <https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/>.

Recording of Class

Students **may not** record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center. If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor’s recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor’s recordings are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

Resources for Online Learning

The University of Houston is committed to student success, and provides information to optimize the online learning experience through our Power-On website (<https://uh.edu/power-on/learning/>). Please visit this website for a comprehensive set of resources, tools, and tips including: obtaining access to the internet, AccessUH, Blackboard, and Canvas; using your smartphone as a webcam; and downloading Microsoft Office 365 at no cost. For questions or assistance contact UHOnline@uh.edu.

UH Email

Please check and use your CougarNet email for communications related to this course. Faculty use the CougarNet email to respond to course-related inquiries such as grade queries or progress reports for reasons of FERPA. To access your CougarNet email, login to your Microsoft 365 account with your CougarNet credentials. Visit University Information Technology (UIT) for instructions on how to connect your CougarNet e-mail on a mobile device.

Webcams

Access to a webcam is required for students participating remotely in this course. Webcams must be turned on (state when webcams are required to be on and the academic basis for requiring them to be on). (Example: Webcams must be turned on during exams to ensure the academic integrity of exam administration.)

Security Escorts and Cougar Ride

UHPD continually works with the University community to make the campus a safe place to learn, work, and live. The security escort service is designed for the community members who have safety concerns and would like to have a Security Officer walk with them, for their safety, as they make their way across campus. Based on availability either a UHPD Security Officer or Police Officer will escort students, faculty, and staff to locations beginning and ending on campus. If you feel that you need a Security Officer to walk with you for your safety, please call 713-743-3333. Arrangements may be made for special needs.

Parking and Transportation Services also offers a late-night, on-demand shuttle service called “Cougar Ride” that provides rides to and from all on-campus shuttle stops, as well as the MD Anderson Library, Cougar Village/Moody Towers and the UH Technology Bridge. Rides can be requested through the UH Go app. Days and hours of operation can be found at <https://uh.edu/af-university-services/parking/cougar-ride/>.

Syllabus Changes

Please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through either via email or during classes.

Honor Code

The UHLC Honor Code applies to all aspects of this course. You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code. Please inquire if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code’s provisions apply to specific activities or situations related to this course. Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you under the Honor Code to comply with the Honor Code in relation to this course and to comply with the instructions in the course syllabus.

AI Generated Text

The software technology known as artificial intelligence has recently expanded its capability to generate text (AI Generated Text). Examples of the technology include what are known as “generative” large language models (LLMs), and a specific implementation what is well known in the general public is ChatGPT. These systems can generate text in response to prompts and/or input of other text/documents/code/images. The output, the AI Generated Text, appears to have human-mimicking “intelligence” and is thus potentially usable as a substitute for written work product one might generate themselves. AI Generated Text can include computer code or programs as well as human language content.

Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you under the Honor Code to not prompt, generate, obtain, read, or use any AI Generated Text in relation to any activity or

assessment in this course. This applies to AI Generated Text from yourself or others. This pledge includes that your assessment work product in the course is without any contribution from AI Generated Text. This specifically extends to the plagiarism policy and unauthorized aid/materials parts of the Honor Code: AI Generated Text will be treated as from another/other in applying the plagiarism policy to this course. The term “assessment” means any work product generated for this course that is submitted to the instructor or presented in a class session, regardless of whether it is graded content or not. Assessments include final exams.

AI Generated Text may not be used in the development or drafting of any assessments created by you in a non-proctored environment, such as a “take-home” final examination unless specified as an exception below. The parts of the Honor Code that refer to unauthorized materials or aid are specifically prohibited from any use of AI Generated Text in this course unless specified as an exception below.

The following activities are exceptions to the immediately preceding paragraph; the intent of these exceptions is to allow use of AI Generated Text for specifically and narrowly defined activities in relation to this course:

- Creating content for an outline that you use to summarize the course content
- “conversing” with the AI Generated Text software system to create hypotheticals to better understand course content, alone or with others
- checking text drafted by you for misspellings, grammar and punctuation errors, strength and clarity of prose, verbosity, effective transitional language and thesis sentences, word choice, excessive passive voice, and like things.

Other UH Resources:

<https://uh.edu/about/diversity-statement/>

<https://uh.edu/cdi/about/accomodation-statement/>

<https://uh.edu/cdi/about/accomodation-statement/>

<https://www.uh.edu/csd/>

<https://www.uh.edu/lgbtq/>

<https://uh.edu/cir/>

<https://uh.edu/caps/>

<https://uh.edu/dsaes/coogscare/>

<https://uh.edu/dsaes/cougarcupboard/>

<https://uh.edu/dsaes/resources/daca/>

<https://uh.edu/healthcenter/>

<https://uh.edu/wellness/>