

Discussion Questions for 2nd Half of the Semester

The best way you can prepare for class and, ultimately, the exams, is to take notes on each of the readings/videos and outline the answers to these questions. This approach will also help you prepare for the class discussion, which should help to boost your participation grade.

International Law: Mercury

1. Why is the Minamata Convention important?
2. Why did 140+ states agree?

International Law: A Line in the Sea, & Force Majeure

1. What is at issue in “A Line in the Sea” and what was the ruling?
2. What is at issue in “Force Majeure”?
3. What are the similarities and differences in the conflict issues in both articles?

Fashion

1. What changes have happened in the last 15 years regarding clothing production?
2. Why is the European Commission (EC) proposing policies to regulate the fast fashion industry? What is the EC’s objective?
3. What changes need to be made to move away from fast fashion?
4. In what ways does our choice of clothing directly affect others in the world and the environment?

The Global Food System

1. What key strategies would have the biggest impact on reducing carbon emissions?
2. What are the biggest contributing factors as to why people waste food?
3. Why is beef considered to so problematic in the global food system?
4. Why aren’t humanely-raised livestock or locally-produced food good alternatives?
5. How are your food habits and choices directly impact others in the world and the environment?

MPAs

1. Who is party to this MPA? What other countries are interested?
2. What problems does Indonesia have with its MPA?
3. Why are the fisheries a multifaceted transnational issue?

Security & Cooperation

1. Who is involved in the rosewood logging in Asia? What are their self-interests?
2. Who is involved in the rosewood logging in Africa? What are their self-interests?
3. How have crystals become a security concern?

Conflict & Security: Sanctions

1. Why has the UNSC (unanimously, and with multiple Resolutions) put sanctions on North Korea?
2. What is China’s position on sanctions against North Korea?
3. What challenges do countries face when being sanctioned (like North Korea and Russia) or applying sanctions (like China, the US, EU countries)?

Conflict & Security: Somalia

1. Why has the UN Security Council put sanctions on Somalia?
2. What drives the charcoal trade in Somalia?
3. What measures would help to address these issues?

Security & Development: Rats & Fish

1. How do 'hero rats' and 'lucky fish' improve people's lives?
2. Why was Charles's first attempt a failure and what did he do to try to remedy the situation?
3. How can these same projects be used to help people facing similar problems in other countries?

Security & Development: Bottles & Toilets

1. How does the bottle project improve people's lives?
2. How is World Toilet Day connected to one of the UN's Sustainable Development goals?
3. How are the bottle project and India's ODF goals both achievable and worth the economic investment?