

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

LAW CENTER

INTERNATIONAL LAW
COURSE EVALUATION – SUMMARY

Fall 2019

Course Number: Law 5370

Professor: Zachary D. Kaufman, J.D., Ph.D.

All students in the course anonymously provided evaluations. Below are ratings and illustrative quotations from these evaluations.

Course Evaluation: This rating combined prompts about how much the student learned relative to other law courses, whether the course will make the student a better lawyer, whether the student would recommend the course to other students, the amount of reading and preparation the course required, and the difficulty of the course's subject matter. The students' average rating of the overall quality of this course—on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 meaning “Outstanding”—was a 4.82.

Instructor Evaluation: This rating combined prompts about whether the instructor was well prepared, demonstrated respect for all students, effectively communicated information, and was available for individual assistance. The students' average rating of the overall teaching effectiveness of this instructor—on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 meaning “Outstanding”—was a 4.76.

Illustrative quotations: The following are quotations (including capitalizations) from the descriptive portion of the evaluations:

- “Professor Kaufman is the best instructor I have ever had at U of H law. I am very fortunate that he was able to join the faculty, and that I was able to experience his class. He has an amazing background and is readily available to share his time with us outside of the classroom. His class structure is great also. The class provides a great balance of laying out the foundation of the law along with the application of the law to relevant current events along with his personal stories that bring the law to life. Additionally, he really cares about his students . . . I hope to take more classes with Professor Kaufman, and that other students can also experience a class with him. 10/10.”
- “Every law school professor PALES in comparison to Dr. Kaufman. He demonstrates the utmost respect to his students and offers every possible opportunity to teach his students. He is primarily the reason why my passion for the law has been reinvigorated. Dr. Kaufman is a former lawyer, profound academic, sincere mentor, and a genuine person. Not only is the University of Houston lucky to have Dr. Kaufman teaching here but it is my belief that the majority of professors in the Law Center should be forced to see and learn how he communicates, teaches, and genuinely helps his students . . . I can definitively say that Dr. Kaufman is not only my favorite professor on campus but may be my favorite professor throughout my entire educational career . . . Thank you Dr. Kaufman, it has been an absolute honor and I look forward to the next class I can take with you.”
- “I’ve never had a professor like Dr. Kaufman. He is not just knowledgeable but incredibly passionate about the subject matter and his commitment to human rights and international justice is inspiring. He cares equally deeply about his students, treats us with respect and sensitivity, and is extremely generous with his time when extra help is requested. He is great about giving and responding to feedback. His lectures are provocative and interactive . . . I would recommend the course to anyone, even if not interested in international law, just to have the experience of working with this amazing professor.”

- “Professor K is one of the most impressive instructors I have ever encountered in higher education. He is very thoroughly knowledgeable of the material, and is very effective as a teacher. His attitude is outstanding, and his ability to engage the students and keep their interest on the material is incredible. He expects his students to put in the work, and he challenges us in class with a truly rhetorical approach. He has great respect for everyone’s opinion, and he actually hears students when they speak. I have already and will continue to promote this class to other students.”
- “Dr. Kaufman is one of my top two (not necessarily number 2) favorite professors EVER! . . . It was an honor and privilege to have a professor with such an impressive educational background and experience, who also was a very genuinely nice person . . . I hope I get the opportunity to take another class with Dr. Kaufman before graduating! . . . UHLC is VERY lucky to have Dr. Kaufman!!!”
- “Professor Kaufman is an outstanding professor. UHLC is very lucky to have him. He is incredibly intelligent, passionate about international law, and always accessible to students . . . I would absolutely recommend his course to other students.”
- “I loved this class. I’m very interested in the subject matter, and Prof. Kaufman definitely made it even more intriguing. It’s clear that Prof. Kaufman loves to teach and loves the material he teaches . . . Class discussions were excellent—they really made me think critically and analyze issues from every angle . . . I still understand the substantive material from this class better than I have understood the material in probably any one of my previous law school classes . . . I think I have learned a lot. I will absolutely recommend this class and Prof. Kaufman to other students.”
- “I’m excited to see how UH’s international law program develops from here. With Kaufman involved, I’m sure it can become one of the greatest in the nation.”
- “Kaufman is an outstanding professor and UH is really lucky to have him. He’s incredibly knowledgeable about the subject matter, and is really receptive to his students . . . He’s very engaging and made an often difficult subject matter easier to understand and interesting . . . He’s a valuable resource to students going into this career field, and students just interested in international law.”
- “Professor Kaufman is an outstanding professor. His credentials and experience are amazing and you can really sense his passion for teaching, which unfortunately does not reflect in all professors. I greatly valued Professor Kaufman’s dedication to his students and passion for the subject. He was available for questions and organized events to get to know the students more and give advice. Professor Kaufman greatly valued our opinions and responded to our needs. I learned so much thanks to Professor Kaufman. I will continue to recommend him to students . . . I would love to take another course by Professor Kaufman!”
- “I feel so thankful that I was able to take this course with Professor Kaufman. He has been the most accomplished, accessible, well-spoken and kind professor I’ve had here at UHLC. My only wish is that we would have gotten him on staff sooner, so that we could have witnessed the growth that he will no doubt bring to the International Law program here. As a law student who hopes to go into the foreign service, the knowledge I’ve attained from his class and him personally will be some of the most useful in my career going forward.”
- “I have never been more impressed with a professor’s background until meeting Dr. Kaufman. He is very respectful to his students and is always happy to help his students with anything they may need . . . UHLC is VERY lucky to have Dr. Kaufman teaching here.”
- “This course was a great overview of the various international law issues, and I’m sure it sparked a lot of interest among students to study international law. Prof. Kaufman is a great instructor . . . Kaufman also brings unique insights to many of the international law issues of today, especially ones involving human rights abuses and crimes against humanity. His deep knowledge and practical experience made this class very enjoyable.”
- “Excellent professor and I hope to take his class again.”
- “Professor Kaufman is very passionate and knowledgeable about the subject matter of the class . . . I really enjoyed this class. I appreciate that the professor takes the students’ comments seriously.”
- “Very responsive to student’s needs . . . Went out of his way to be available to students. Very passionate about the topic, added personal experience and stories to make concepts easier to retain . . . an amazing class that I’d recommend to others even if they weren’t interested in pursuing an international career as there’s a lot you can take out of this class besides a basic understanding of international mechanisms.”