The ongoing civil war in Syria, the emergence of the self-styled Islamic State, a spate of terrorist attacks at home and abroad, escalating tensions with Russia, legislation to limit domestic electronic surveillance, and climate change have dominated headlines recently. These developments all have important legal dimensions. They also reflect the currency and practical relevance of our study of national security law. Equally important, they provide special insights into the workings of law and government, and into the responsibility of lawyers to help keep us safe and free. All will figure prominently in our studies this semester.


### Essential Background

Please read for background pp. 1-23, as well as relevant provisions of the United States Constitution found at pp. 1419-1425. These materials are exceedingly important and will be the subject of discussion throughout the course.

### Monday, August 29

*Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer (The Steel Seizure Case)*

25-52

*Steel Seizure* is the most important separation of powers case. Please review it carefully. You should be prepared to discuss the three different sources of authority asserted by the President, as well as the response of each respective Justice to those assertions.

### Wednesday, August 31

*United States v. Curtiss-Wright Export Corp.; Dames & Moore v. Regan*

53-70

These two Supreme Court cases help us to frame the still extremely vigorous debate about the sources and extent of the President’s foreign relations powers.

### Wednesday, September 7

*Zivotofsky v. Kerry; The Prize Cases; Little v. Barreme*

70-95

The cases in this assignment bring sharply into focus the correlative roles of the executive and legislative branches (as well as the courts) in providing for the nation’s defense.