



STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2021-2022

COURSE TITLE

Crimes against Humanity and International Justice

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT

KOLASINSKI Tadeusz

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

LEWIS Mark A.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

WOŁOWIEC Jacek

COURSE TYPE

Compact Seminar

MAJOR(S)

EUW

ECTS CREDITS

no ECTS

SEMESTER

2

TEACHING HOURS

8

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

not applicable

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

To introduce the concepts of crimes against humanity and genocide, explore the historical contexts in which these crimes were committed in the 20th century, and discuss the forms of international justice that were used to address them

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will be able to explain the differences between these legal concepts: violations of the laws and customs of war, crimes against humanity, and genocide.
- Students will be familiar with the basic historical contexts in which crimes against humanity and genocide were invented as terms and why.
- Students will be familiar with key differences among national tribunals, truth and reconciliation commissions, ad hoc international tribunals, and the permanent International Criminal Court.
- Students will be able to discuss and debate some of the controversies elicited by these institutions.
- Students will learn about certain key political and historical debates which could be pursued for independent research.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Please read the texts and watch the videos prior to the sessions.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Introductory lectures followed by student discussion.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The compact seminar will be assessed on a 'pass/fail' basis through:

- an online multiple-choice test (80% of the mark) after the final course session - 15 minutes to answer 7 questions, and
- overall attendance (20% of the mark).

The weighted average of both assessment elements needs to be equal or greater than 50% for a student to pass the compact seminar.

Each student is entitled to re-taking the test once. The re-take test would account for 80% of the mark whilst overall attendance would account for the remaining 20%.

Since compact seminars carry no ECTS credits, the final result will be present on the transcript, but will have no impact on students' final average, nor on overall grade, nor on attaining the diploma.

COURSE CONTENTS

This compact seminar will introduce students to the intellectual and political history of two 20th century legal concepts – “crimes against humanity” and genocide – and contrast them with an older concept: violations of the laws and customs of war. We will briefly survey various types of international tribunals, contrasting them with truth and reconciliation commissions and national courts operating under universal jurisdiction (which are alternatives to dealing with mass crimes). We will discuss some controversies sparked by international tribunals: how the courts write and rewrite history; whether they create reconciliation or animosity in the domestic societies where the crimes occurred; whether there is a double-standard for certain countries (both East and West) that do not belong to the permanent International Criminal Court; and whether “the right to protect” has practical meaning.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Articles and chapters provided on the intranet; books from the Natolin Library; documentary films; internet sites; short video and audio excerpts from trials.