



STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2021-2022

COURSE TITLE

Introduction to International Humanitarian Law (within the framework of a seminar organized with the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva - open to external participants)

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT

BRESKAYA Maria
DOMINICI Béranger

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

MIKOS-SKUZA Elżbieta

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

WOŁOWIEC Jacek

COURSE TYPE

Cooperation with External Partners

MAJOR(S)

EPAP, EUW, EUN, EHC

ECTS CREDITS

no ECTS

SEMESTER

2

TEACHING HOURS

17

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

not applicable

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The aim of the seminar is to familiarize participants with present and emerging challenges that the international community is confronted with in the domain of humanitarian protection and assistance to civilians, including migrants, in times of armed conflicts, and with their legal framework.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who complete the course will:

KNOWLEDGE:

- know the basic notions, concepts and principles of IHL;
- be able to identify the main challenges to IHL;
- know different methods of implementation of IHL and understand the reasons for their frequent failure.

SKILLS:

- be able to interpret legal texts in good faith in the context of contemporary legal and political developments;
- understand the multidimensional and multi-layered character of international legal regulations relating to armed conflicts;
- understand the importance of a critical approach to contemporary challenges to IHL.

COMPETENCES:

- be firmly convinced that "even wars have limits" and that there is no justification for excessive violence;
- be ready to advocate for the strict allegiance to the rule of law in international relations;
- understand that indifference towards human suffering is a driving force behind further violence.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Teaching methods applied during this course are: lectures with PowerPoint presentations and group discussions. Should Covid-related rules allow to organize a practical exercise, the course would be followed by an optional simulation game created by the UNHCR and designed to put participants through the experience of being a refugee fleeing war or persecution.

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (force majeure). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

Not applicable.

COURSE CONTENTS

- Notion, sources and principles of IHL
- Material scope of application of IHL with special emphasis on the situation in Eastern Ukraine, Syria and other recent examples of armed conflicts
- Notion and status of combatants, spies, mercenaries, private military companies and other similar categories
- Protection of civilians; particular status of women, children, journalists, refugees and internally displaced persons
- Implementation of IHL, including implementation by human rights institutions
- International Committee of the Red Cross operations and the challenges to humanitarian action
- The European Union and IHL
- The European Union and crisis management
- Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Migrants

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Course materials are composed of PowerPoint presentations available for students and readings: documents, articles and brochures.