



ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME				YEAR	
European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)				2022-2023	
COURSE TITLE				SEMESTER	
Public International Law				1	
COURSE PROFESSOR(S)			ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)		
JAIN Neha			KOLASIŃSKI Tadeusz		
COURSE TYPE		MAJOR(S)		ECTS CREDITS	
Preparatory Course		Not applicable		no ECTS	
TEACHING HOURS	INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME	TUTORIAL(S)	COEFFICIENT	LANGUAGE(S)	
10			not applicable	EN	

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course is an introduction to the international legal system and examines foundational concepts that inform the international dimensions of law in the contemporary world. It places particular emphasis on the institutions and process by which international law gets made, interpreted, applied, and enforced. Through focusing on current events in global politics, the course excavates both traditional international law doctrine and pressures to rethink it.

Specific topics will include:

- 1) international lawmaking and sources of international legal authority;
- 2) the establishment and transformation of states;
- 3) state responsibility for violations of international legal norms;
- 4) the international legal architecture for dispute settlement;
- 5) how international law gets enforced.

The course has no prerequisites and does not assume any prior knowledge of international law. For students who already have a background in international law, the course will help deepen their understanding of how politics and culture inform the negotiation, application, and enforcement of international legal rules.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will obtain a rigorous foundation in basic international legal concept and acquire the analytical tools to pursue options for practice and research in international law.
2. Students will gain a critical appreciation of how international legal rules interact with complex global challenges concerning migration, climate change, mass atrocity, self-determination, and sanctions regimes.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

The course will be taught over five sessions consisting of two hours each. The background material and readings will consist of introductory texts in international law. These will be supplemented by blogposts, stories in print media, and podcasts, to give a flavour of contemporary issues in global politics through which we will explore international legal questions. Students will be expected to read or listen to the material in advance and be prepared to come discuss the material in class.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

The class will not follow a traditional lecture format but rather take the form of a guided discussion of the materials assigned for each session. Students will be invited to reflect on a series of questions that help to understand and critically evaluate the process of international law-making and the role and function of international law institutions in the interpretation and enforcement of international law. Additional teaching techniques such as small group exercises and role playing will be used to encourage inclusive and full participation.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The preparatory course will be assessed on a 'pass/fail' basis through:

- an online multiple-choice test (80% of the mark) at the end of 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 course.

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 preparatory courses 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

Class 1 - International legal sources: theory vs reality

The 2018 Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees have been described as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to improve the international architecture governing refugee and migrant rights. But what is their international legal character? This class will examine the nature of international legal rules and explore how they operate in practice.

Class 2 – International Legal Subjects: States

This class will discuss recent diplomatic tensions over the status of Western Sahara and the changing policies of European and other states on its recognition to analyse issues of statehood and self-determination.

Class 3 – International legal responsibility

This class will trace the international legal responsibility of various actors, in particular, states, through the lens of climate change litigation before domestic and international courts. It will examine the kinds of entities that can be held responsible under international law as well as principles for attribution of responsibility.

Class 4 – Responding to international law violations

The International Court of Justice, often referred to as “the World Court” is currently adjudicating a case brought by the Gambia against Myanmar alleging that Myanmar’s actions against the Rohingya in Rakhine State violate its obligations under the Genocide Convention. The case will be used to illustrate the means through which states may resolve their disputes under international law and when judicial dispute settlement may be invoked.

Class 5 - International legal enforcement

Sanctions and countermeasures are amongst the main non-forcible means of enforcing international law by states as well as international organizations. Yet, as the sanctions on Russia following the invasion of Ukraine reveal, the legal basis and efficacy of these measures continues to be debated. This class will explore the international legal basis and legitimacy of sanctions as instruments to enforce international law and their use as a tool of foreign policy.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Malcolm Evans (ed.), *International Law* (5th ed., OUP, 2018)

Alexander Orakhelashvili, *Akehurst’s Modern Introduction to International Law* (9th ed., Routledge, 2022)