



SELF PROGRAM

2026/2027

Introduction to International Criminal Law

Dan Eid

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Course information

Number of credits: 6 credits

Contact hours: 30 hours

Hours taught per week: 3 hours

Teaching period: Spring 2027

Course description

International criminal law is a body of public international law designed to deal with the criminal responsibility of individuals for international crimes. This course will first introduce international criminal law and procedure and the core international crimes - war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, the crime of aggression as well as selected issues relating to terrorism. Then it will focus on the jurisdiction of different governing bodies to prosecute those crimes. In particular, it will discuss international tribunals, including military and ad hoc criminal tribunals and the International Criminal Court. In addition, the course will examine contemporary investigative and accountability mechanisms and their contribution

to international criminal justice. The interim assessment will constitute a moot court with a case scenario. Students will be divided in groups each representing the defense, the prosecution or a chamber of judges.

Course outline

Session 1: Historical background and development of International Criminal Law (from the Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals to contemporary systems and the milestones leading to The Hague).

Session 2: The ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals (the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals).

Session 3: The International Criminal Court

Session 4: Core international crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes (also aggression, terrorism, torture).

Session 5: Modes of criminal liability, defenses, and immunities.

Session 6: Other International Tribunals (the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia).

Session 7: Moot Court exercise.

Session 8: Different UN Investigative and Accountability Mechanisms.

Session 9: State Cooperation and National Proceedings (Domestic implementation of International Criminal Law, universal jurisdiction, mutual legal assistance, challenges in cooperation with international courts and mechanisms).

Session 10: Final Exam.

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of law would be an asset. Students should have a strong interest in criminal law, humanitarian law, human rights and international relations.

Course objectives

The objective of this course is to provide students with overall understanding of the history, evolution and challenges of international criminal law.

Assessment

10% participation in class (homework and live discussions)

30% interim assessment (moot court)

60% final written exam (in class)

Attendance

In order to participate, students must be present. Nevertheless, a maximum of 2 (two) unexcused absences will be allowed; otherwise, no mark will be given. An unexcused absence at a test (final test or continuous assessment) means no credits for the course.

Bibliography

R. Cryer, D. Robinson, S. Vasilev, *An Introduction to International Criminal Law and Procedure*, Fourth Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019.