

International Law

(Fall 2025; Monday 14:00–17:00)

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Course Description

The goal of this course is to enhance students' understanding of the structure and process of the international legal system, as well as the basic concepts, fundamental doctrines, substantive rules, operational mechanisms, and evolving practices of international law. The course will specifically address the sources and subjects of international law, how international disputes are resolved, under what conditions states can be held responsible, how international law is enforced, and what the substances of international law are. Students will also learn how to identify a wide range of contemporary international problems and examine their legal aspects, both of which are necessary skills for experts in the field of international cooperation.

Required Readings (Textbook)

Jan Klabbers, *International Law*, 4th edition (Cambridge University Press, 2024).

References

Malcolm N. Shaw, *International Law*, 9th ed. (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

James Crawford, *Brownlie's Principles of Public International Law*, 9th ed. (Oxford University Press, 2019).

Jens David Ohlin, *International Law: Evolving Doctrine and Practice*, 2nd ed. (Foundation Press/West Academic Publishing, 2021).

Malcolm D. Evans, *International Law*, 5th ed. (Oxford University Press, 2018).

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

Paola Gaeta, Jorge E. Viñuales, and Salvatore Zappalá, *Cassese's International Law*, 3rd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2020).

Malcolm D. Evans, *Blackstone's International Law Documents*, 15th ed. (Oxford University Press, 2021).

Klabbers's *International Law* (the book with an asterisk (*)) will be used as the course textbook, and students are required to obtain it. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings from Klabbers's textbook each week.

Students are encouraged, but not required, to refer to the references listed in this syllabus. All the relevant materials relating to case studies can be found on the websites of the International Court of Justice (www.icj-cij.org), the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (www.itlos.org), and the International Criminal Court (www.icc-cpi.int).

Course Schedule (Weekly)

Week 1 (Sep. 1) Introduction to the Course and the International Legal System

This session will be devoted to gaining an understanding of the basic concepts and principles to be utilized in the course and setting expectations.

- References: Paola Gaeta, Jorge E. Viñuales, and Salvatore Zappalá, *Cassese's International Law*, 3rd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2020), pp. 3-19.

Week 2 (Sep. 8) Nature of International Law: Is International Law a Law?

- **Reading: *Klabbers, Ch. 1 (The Setting of International Law)**
- References: Shaw, Ch. 1; Crawford, Ch. 1; Ohlin, Ch. 1; Evans (International Law, 5th ed., 2018), Chs. 1-2; Orakhelashvili, Chs. 1; Gaeta et al., Chs. 1 and 2.

Week 3 (Sep. 15) Historical Development of IL & Sources of International Law ①

- **Reading: *Klabbers, Chs. 1- 2 (The Setting of International Law; and the Making of International Law)**
- References: Shaw, Ch. 2; Crawford, Ch. 1; Ohlin, Ch. 1; Evans (International Law, 5th ed., 2018), Chs. 1-2; Orakhelashvili, Ch. 2; Gaeta et al., Ch. 2.

Week 4 (Sep. 22) Sources of International Law ②

- **Reading: *Klabbers, Ch. 2 (The Making of International Law)**
- References: Shaw, Ch. 3; Crawford, Ch. 2; Ohlin, Ch. 2; Evans (International Law, 5th ed., 2018), Chs. 4-5; Orakhelashvili, Ch. 3; Gaeta et al., Chs. 9 and 11.
- **{Student's Case Presentation}**
 - **[Case 1]** *The Paquete Habana*, 175 U.S. 677 (1900).
 - **[Case 2]** *North Sea Continental Shelf (Federal Republic of Germany/Denmark; Federal Republic of Germany/Netherlands), Judgment*, [1969] ICJ Rep 3.

- **[Case 3]** *Anglo-Norwegian Fisheries Case (United Kingdom v. Norway)*, Judgment, [1951] ICJ Rep 1.
- **[Case 4]** *Nuclear Tests (Australia v. France)*, Judgment, [1974] ICJ Rep 253; *Nuclear Tests (New Zealand v. France)*, Judgment, [1974] ICJ Rep 457.

Week 5 (Sep. 29) The Law of Treaties

- **Reading: *Klabbers, Ch. 3 (The Law of Treaties)**
- References: Shaw, Ch. 15; Crawford, Ch. 16; Ohlin, Ch. 3; Evans (International Law, 5th ed., 2018), Ch. 6; Orakhelashvili, Ch. 12; Gaeta et al., Ch. 10.
- **{Student's Case Presentation}**
 - **[Case 5]** *Reservations to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Advisory Opinion*, [1951] ICJ Rep 15.
 - **[Case 6]** *Land and Maritime Boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria (Cameroon v. Nigeria: Equatorial Guinea intervening)*, Judgment, [2002] ICJ Rep 303.

Week 6 (Oct. 6) Chuseok Holiday

There will be no class on this day due to the Chuseok holiday. Instead, an online lecture video will be uploaded.

Week 7 (Oct. 13) Subjects of International Law: States, International Organizations, and Others

- **Reading: *Klabbers, Ch. 4 (The Subjects of International Law)**
- References: Shaw, Ch. 5; Crawford, Part II (Chs. 4-7); Ohlin, Chs. 4-5; Evans (International Law, 5th ed., 2018), Chs. 7-8; Orakhelashvili, Chs. 5-6; Gaeta et al., Chs. 4 and 7.

Week 8 (Oct. 20) The Scope of Sovereignty: Jurisdiction and Immunities

- **Reading: *Klabbers, Ch. 5 (Jurisdiction, Powers, and Immunities)**
- References: Shaw, Chs. 11-12; Crawford, Part VII (Chs. 20-22); Ohlin, Chs. 15-16; Evans (International Law, 5th ed., 2018), Chs. 10-12; Orakhelashvili, Chs. 10-11; Gaeta et al., Chs. 5-6.
- **{Student's Case Presentation}**
 - **[Case 7]** *Jurisdictional Immunities of the State (Germany v. Italy: Greece intervening)*, Judgment, [2012] ICJ Rep 99.
 - **[Case 8]** *Arrest Warrant of 11 April 2000 (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Belgium)*, Judgment, [2002] ICJ Rep 3.
 - **[Case 9]** *R v. Bow Street Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, ex parte Pinochet Ugarte (No. 3)* [2000] 1 AC 147 (HL).

Week 9 (Oct. 27) Individuals in International Law and International Human Rights Law

- **Reading: *Klabbers, Ch. 6 (The Individual in International Law, Including Human Rights)**
- References: Shaw, Ch. 6; Crawford, Chs. 28-29; Ohlin, Ch. 11; Evans (International Law, 5th ed., 2018), Chs. 9 and 25; Orakhelashvili, Chs. 15- 16; Gaeta et al., Chs. 8 and 18.

Week 10 (Nov. 3) Responsibilities in International Law

- **Reading: *Klabbers, Ch. 7 (The Law of Responsibility)**
- References: Shaw, Chs. 13 and 7; Crawford, Part IX (Chs. 25-27); Ohlin, Ch. 6; Evans (International Law, 5th ed., 2018), Part V (Chs. 14-16); Orakhelashvili, Ch. 13; Gaeta et al., Ch. 12.
- **{Student's Case Presentation}**
 - **[Case 10]** *Military and Paramilitary Activities in and against Nicaragua (Nicaragua v. United States of America)*, Merits, Judgment, [1986] ICJ Rep 14.
 - *Whether the US should be held responsible for violations of international humanitarian law committed by the Contras (Can the acts committed by the Contras be attributed to the US?)*
 - **[Case 11]** *Prosecutor v. Duško Tadić, IT-94-1-A, Judgment, Appeals Chamber, 15 July 1999, ICTY.*
 - **[Case 12]** *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro)*, Judgment, [2007] ICJ Rep 43.

Week 11 (Nov. 10) Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes & Enforcing International Law

- **Reading: *Klabbers, Chs. 8 - 9 (International Courts and Tribunals; Sanctions, Countmeasures, and Collective Security)**
- References: Shaw, Chs. 17-18; Crawford, Chs. 31-32; Ohlin, Chs. 7-8; Evans (International Law, 5th ed., 2018), Chs. 17-19; Orakhelashvili, Chs. 22-23; Gaeta et al., Chs. 13, 14, and 16.

Week 12 (Nov. 17) Use of Force

- **Reading: *Klabbers, Ch. 10 (Use of Force)**
- References: Shaw, Ch. 19; Crawford, Ch. 33; Ohlin, Chs. 9-10; Evans (International Law, 5th ed., 2018), Ch. 20; Orakhelashvili, Ch. 20; Gaeta et al., Ch. 16
- **{Student's Case Presentation}**
 - **[Case 13]** *Corfu Channel (United Kingdom v. Albania)*, Merits, Judgment, [1949] ICJ Rep 4.
 - **[Case 14]** *Correspondence between Lord Ashburton and Mr. Webster (The Caroline Case)*, 1842, *British and Foreign State Papers*, Vol. 30, p. 195.
 - **[Case 15]** *Military and Paramilitary Activities in and against Nicaragua (Nicaragua v. United States of America)*, Merits, Judgment, [1986] ICJ Rep 14.
 - *Whether US support for Contra military activities could be justified a*

s exercising its right to collective self-defence

Week 13 (Nov. 24) International Humanitarian Law & International Criminal Law

- **Reading: *Klabbers, Chs. 11-12 (The Law of Armed Conflicts; International Criminal Law)**
- References: Shaw, Chs. 7 & 20; Crawford, Ch. 30; Ohlin, Chs. 12-13; Evans (International Law, 5th ed., 2018), Chs. 24 and 27; Orakhelashvili, Chs. 19 and 21; Gaeta et al., Chs. 17 and 19.

Week 14 (Dec. 1) The Law of the Sea

- **Reading: *Klabbers, Ch. 13 (The Seas, the Air, and Outer Space)**
- References: Shaw, Ch. 10; Crawford, Part IV (Chs. 11-13); Evans (International Law, 5th ed., 2018), Ch. 21; Orakhelashvili, Chs. 8-9; Gaeta et al., Ch. 5.

Week 15 (Dec. 8) Final Exam

Course Requirements

Grading for the course will be based on the following three elements:

1) Attendance and Class Participation (20%)

Students are expected to attend all classes, do all required readings in advance, participate actively in class discussion, and make valuable contributions.

2) Student Case Presentation and Case Report (40%)

Each student is required to give one presentation on a major international law case during the semester and submit an individual case report based on the presentation. Detailed instructions regarding the case presentation and report submission will be provided in class.

3) Final Exam (40%)

The in-class final exam will be conducted as an open-book exam. There will be two questions. One of them will be a hypothetical case question, where students will read given hypothetical fictitious factual situations, identify the legal issues raised, determine applicable international law, analyze the problem by applying the laws to the facts, and ultimately draw conclusions based on the above analysis or reasoning. The other question will be a short essay question designed to test overall understanding of the legal principles and rules covered in the course. Further details regarding the final exam will be announced during the class.

Office Hours

Tuesday afternoon, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (If students have other classes or activities at this time, an alternative appointment can be arranged.)