

International Dispute Settlement and Global Justice

(Fall 2025; Wednesday 14:00–17:00)

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Course Description

The goal of this course is to enhance students' understanding of international dispute settlement and the achievement of global justice. Following a comparison of various methods and means of dispute settlement, the course will focus on the role of international law and international legal proceedings in settling international disputes and promoting global justice. This course will look specifically at important cases at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), and the International Criminal Court (ICC). Students will be asked to define and assess the role, potential, and limitations of international law and its institutions in international relations throughout the course.

Readings

* John Merrills and Eric De Brabandere, Merrills' International Dispute Settlement, 7th edition (Cambridge University Press, 2022)

* Darryl Robinson et al., An Introduction to International Criminal Law and Procedure, 5th edition (Cambridge University Press, 2024)

Merrills' International Dispute Settlement and An Introduction to International Criminal Law and Procedure (the books with an asterisk (*)) will be used as basic references for the course. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings each week.

References

John Collier and Vaughan Lowe, The Settlement of Disputes in International Law: Institutions and Procedures (Oxford University Press, 2000)

William Zartman (ed.), Peacemaking in International Conflict: Methods and Techniques (USIP Press, 2007)

Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Marcelo G. Kohen, and Jorge E. Vinuales (eds.), Diplomatic and Judicial Means of Dispute Settlement (Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2013)

Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall (eds.), Leashing the Dogs of War: Conflict Management in a Divided World (USIP Press, 2007)

Natalie Klein (ed.), Litigating International Law Disputes: Weighing the Options (Cambridge University Press, 2014)

Patibandla Chandrasekhara Rao and Philippe Gautier, The International Tribunal

for the Law of the Sea: Law, Practice, and Procedure (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2018)
 Carsten Stahn, A Critical Introduction to International Criminal Law (Cambridge University Press, 2018)
 Beth Van Schaack and Ronald C. Slye, International Criminal Law and Its Enforcement: Cases and Materials, 4th edition (Foundation Press, 2019)
 William A. Schabas, An Introduction to the International Criminal Court, 6th edition (Cambridge University Press, 2020)
 Jan Klabbers, International Law, 3rd edition (Cambridge University Press, 2021)
 Alexander Orakhelashvili, Akehurst's Modern Introduction to International Law, Ninth Edition (Routledge, 2022)
 Lori Fisler Damrosch and Sean D. Murphy, International Law: Cases and Materials, 7th edition (West Academic Publishing, 2019)
 Malcolm D. Evans, International Law, 5th edition (Oxford University Press, 2018)
 Malcolm N. Shaw, International Law, 9th edition (Cambridge University Press, 2021)
 Malcolm D. Evans, Blackstone's International Law Documents, Fifteenth Edition (Oxford University Press, 2021)

Students are encouraged, but not required, to refer to references listed in this syllabus and such materials and websites as the Journal of International Dispute Settlement, the Journal of International Criminal Justice, the SIPRI Yearbook, the Strategic Survey (IISS), and the International Crisis Group (www.crisisgroup.org) for updated knowledge of ongoing conflicts, disputes, and crimes around the world.

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), the International Criminal Court (www.icc-cpi.int), the ICC Legal Tools Database (www.legal-tools.org), and the International Crimes Database (www.internationalcrimesdatabase.org).

Course Schedule (Weekly)

To optimize students' learning effectiveness, this course is designed to include a variety of session formats.

(1) Weeks 1 to 7 and 13 to 14: The professor will deliver lectures on the fundamental concepts, principles, frameworks, and enforcement mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of international disputes. PowerPoint slides for the lectures will be uploaded to the ETL platform prior to each class.

(2) Week 8 will feature a guest lecture by a prominent expert in the field of the UNCLOS dispute settlement system (Law of the Sea).

(3) Weeks 9 to 12 will consist of student-led case presentation sessions.

Week 1 (Sep. 3) International Dispute Settlement: Principles and Concepts

This session will be devoted to meeting one another, gaining an understanding of the basic concepts and principles to be utilized in the course, and setting expectations for students.

- Reading: Merrills' International Dispute Settlement, Ch. 1 (pp. 1-37).
- References: John Collier and Vaughan Lowe, The Settlement of Disputes in International Law: Institutions and Procedures (Oxford University Press, 2000), Ch. 1 (pp. 1-16); Natalie Klein (ed.), Litigating International Law Disputes: Weighing the Options (Cambridge University Press, 2014), Chs. 1-2 (pp. 3-41); Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Marcelo G. Kohen, and Jorge E. Vinuales (eds.), Diplomatic and Judicial Means of Dispute Settlement (Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2013), Ch. 2 (pp. 13-24).

Week 2 (Sep. 10) Diagnosis of a Dispute and Negotiation

- Reading: Merrills' International Dispute Settlement, Ch. 2 (pp. 38-65).
- References: William Zartman (ed.), Peacemaking in International Conflict: Methods and Techniques (USIP Press, 2007), Ch. 3 (pp. 111-162).

Week 3 (Sep. 17) Mediation

- Reading: Merrills' International Dispute Settlement, Ch. 3 (pp. 66-83).
- References: William Zartman (ed.), Peacemaking in International Conflict: Methods and Techniques (USIP Press, 2007), Ch. 4 (pp. 163-194); Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall (eds.), Leashing the Dogs of War: Conflict Management in a Divided World (USIP Press, 2007), Ch. 25 (pp. 437-454).

Week 4 (Sep. 24) Arbitration

- Reading: Merrills' International Dispute Settlement, Chs. 6-7 (pp. 132-193).
- References: William Zartman (ed.), Peacemaking in International Conflict: Methods and Techniques (USIP Press, 2007), Ch. 5 (pp. 195-226); John Collier and Vaughan Lowe, The Settlement of Disputes in International Law: Institutions and Procedures (Oxford University Press, 2000), Ch. 4 (pp. 59-83).

Week 5 (Oct. 1) International Court of Justice (ICJ) 1: Organization and Procedure

- Reading: Merrills' International Dispute Settlement, Ch. 8 (pp. 194-230).
- References: John Collier and Vaughan Lowe, The Settlement of Disputes in International Law: Institutions and Procedures (Oxford University Press,

2000), Ch. 7 (pp. 124-185).

Week 6 (Oct. 8) No Class (Chuseok National Holiday)

Inquiry and Conciliation – A make-up lecture will be uploaded.

- Reading: Merrills' International Dispute Settlement, Chs. 4-5 (pp. 84-131).
- References: John Collier and Vaughan Lowe, The Settlement of Disputes in International Law: Institutions and Procedures (Oxford University Press, 2000), pp. 24- 27, 29-31; Catherine Harwood, The Roles and Functions of Atrocity-Related United Nations Commissions of Inquiry in the International Legal Order: Navigating between Principle and Pragmatism (Brill, 2020).

Week 7 (Oct. 15) International Court of Justice (ICJ) 2: The Work of the Court

- Reading: Merrills' International Dispute Settlement, Ch. 9 (pp. 231-260).
- References: John Collier and Vaughan Lowe, The Settlement of Disputes in International Law: Institutions and Procedures (Oxford University Press, 2000), Ch. 7 (pp. 124-185).

Week 8 (Oct. 22) UNCLOS Dispute Settlement System and International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

☒ Guest Lecture

- Reading: Merrills' International Dispute Settlement, Ch. 10 (pp. 261-309).
- References: The required references will be announced and uploaded later.

Week 9 (Oct. 29) Students' Case Presentation 1

Week 10 (Nov. 5) Students' Case Presentation 2

Week 11 (Nov. 12) Students' Case Presentation 3

Week 12 (Nov. 19) Students' Case Presentation 4

Week 13 (Nov. 26) International Criminal Courts and Tribunals: The Aims, Objectives, and Justifications

- Reading: Darryl Robinson et al., An Introduction to International Criminal Law and Procedure, 5th edition (Cambridge University Press, 2024), Part I. Introduction.
- References: Carsten Stahn, A Critical Introduction to International Criminal Law (Cambridge University Press, 2018), Ch. 3 (pp. 159-268); Beth Van Schaack and Ronald C. Slye, International Criminal Law and Its Enforcement:

Cases and Materials, 4th edition (Foundation Press, 2019), Ch. 1 (pp. 5-32); Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Marcelo G. Kohen, and Jorge E. Vinuales (eds.), Diplomatic and Judicial Means of Dispute Settlement (Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2013), Chs. 3-4 (pp. 25-60).

Week 14 (Dec. 3) International Criminal Court (ICC): Jurisdiction and Procedure

- Reading: Darryl Robinson et al., An Introduction to International Criminal Law and Procedure, 5th edition (Cambridge University Press, 2024), Part III. International Prosecution.
- References: Beth Van Schaack and Ronald C. Slye, International Criminal Law and Its Enforcement: Cases and Materials, 4th edition (Foundation Press, 2019), Ch. 5 (pp. 189-263); William A. Schabas, An Introduction to the International Criminal Court, 6th edition (Cambridge University Press, 2020).

Week 15 (Dec. 10) Final Exam

Course Requirements

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

1) Attendance and informed participation in class discussion (20%)

Students are expected to attend all classes, do all required readings and as much of the recommended readings as possible in advance, participate actively in class discussion, and make valuable contributions.

2) Case presentation (40%)

For case study (weeks 9–12), students will be required to choose one case/situation from the case/situation list the professor provides during the semester for their presentation, and they must consult with the professor in advance regarding their choice of case/situation. In their presentation, students are expected to address, among others, factual background, legal issues, claims and arguments of the parties, and reasoning and decisions of international courts and tribunals, as well as their own assessment.

3) In-class final examination (40%)

The Final Examination will be held at the end of the semester.

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.)