

Course manual
Joint Master's Programme in
International Humanitarian Action

Ruhr-Universität
Bochum

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version August 2015

MODULE 202 International Law

Semester 1

RUHR
UNIVERSITÄT
BOCHUM

RUB



Aix-Marseille
université



Module coordinator:

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Lecturers:

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Credits awarded:

5 ECTS, equivalent to 125 work hours (1 ECTS = 25 hours)

Period:

First semester

Venue & hours:

4.46-47, IFHV seminar room

Introduction to International Law (Prof. Dr. Thielbörger)

05.10.16, 10:00-11:30

Methodology: Law for Nonlawyers (Prof. Dr. Thielbörger)

05.10.16, 11:45-13:15

Public International Law (Prof. Dr. Heintze)

12.10.16, 10:00-11:30

12.10.16, 11:45-13:15

12.10.16, 14:15-15:45

12.10.16, 16:00-17:30

Int'l Human Rights Law (Prof. Dr. Thielbörger)

26.10.16, 10:00-11:30

26.10.16, 11:45-13:15

02.11.16, 14:00-15:30

02.11.16, 15:45-17:00

23.11.16, 10:00-13:00 (Human Rights Moot Court)

International Humanitarian Law (Laura Hofmann)

09.11.16, 10:00-11:30

09.11.16, 11:45-13:15



21.11.16, 14:15-15:45

21.11.16, 16:00-17:30

Moot Court Workshop (B. Behlert/M. Bertamini)

16.11.2016, 10:00-11:30

Int'l Criminal Law (Prof. Dr. Thielbörger)

30.11.16, 10:00-11:30

30.11.16, 11:45-13:15

Disaster Response Law (Prof. Dr. Heintze)

07.12.16, 10:00-11:30

07.12.16, 11:45-13:15

European Law (K. Fenrich/ R. Ramsahye)

14.12.16, 10:00-11:30

14.12.16, 11:45-13:15

Tutorials (T. Ackermann/ T. Stollmann)

21.12.16, 10:00-11:30

21.12.16, 11:45-13:15

19.01.17, 10:00-11:30

Oral Exam

23.01.17 tbc

1. Introduction

In the first semester of the NOHA programme at Ruhr-University Bochum, the module "International Law" is one of the five core modules. In the 2016/2017 Bochum programme, the course will be taught by the lecturers Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Heintze, Prof. Dr. Pierre Thielboerger, Laura Hofmann, LL.M., Robin Ramsahye and Katrin Fenrich. The present syllabus gives an insight into the common general objectives and requirements of this module.

2. Learning outcomes

The international law module will show that in each humanitarian situation it is necessary to be acquainted with the respective legal framework. For example, NGOs need to decide whether it wishes to assist in a humanitarian crisis that has led another country to intervene without the approval of the international community (general international law). Then, prior to departure, NGOs need to apply to the authorities to be allowed to enter (international disaster response law). Once in the country, NGOs may refuse to work with certain groups because these groups do not wish women to participate in the activities (human rights law). If caught in a country where an armed conflict is raging, NGOs will need to know who is a protected person (international humanitarian law) and which rights/duties they have.

In decreasing order of relevance these are the main objectives and competencies to which the Module makes a contribution to:



Core competencies

- I.3 to carry out comprehensive analyses of conflict and emergency situations
- I.4 to develop a deep understanding of legal aspects of humanitarian action

Secondary competencies

- I.8 to identify responsibilities in implementing humanitarian assistance and in assuming accountability
- I.7 to be aware of the potential (wanted and unwanted) impacts of humanitarian assistance on the beneficiaries

3. Course content/ Teaching and learning methodology

The international law course aims to provide the students with a thorough insight into basic concepts, principles and methods of international law that are relevant for humanitarian action. The following points should be borne in mind:

- a good knowledge of international law requires a good understanding of the legal methods and principles;
- to understand fully international law relating to humanitarian assistance it is necessary to have a good grasp of general international law;
- the terminology in international law is very accurate.

The course will therefore provide you first with an introduction to general international law before delving into the parts which are more relevant for your field of study, i.e. international disaster response law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law, European law.

The following topics will be examined during the course:

- Introduction to international law,
- International disaster response law,
- International human rights law and international criminal law,
- International humanitarian law, and
- European law.

Each of these courses will provide you with an insight in the different areas of international law pertaining to humanitarian assistance.

4. Organisation of the module

Lecturers provide at the beginning of each course a very short introduction to the key concepts and principles of international law. Further in the class, the subject will be deepened.

During the entire class, the students are invited to participate in the class. In this regard, it is recommended that the students read all documents and articles enumerated in the reading list so that they can actively participate in the discussions. No debate can take place if you do not contribute yourself to it.

You will be provided with a collection of legal documents as well as another collection of academic and other articles to further your knowledge of international law pertaining to humanitarian assistance. Further, lecturers may provide you with additional material or case study in the course of the module.

Learning Objectives:

Introduction to Law:

Students learn to understand legal reasoning and argumentation



Introduction to international law:

- to apply legal methods in the field of international law;
- to understand the various sources and actors of international law; and
- to interpret international treaties.
- to understand the principles of international responsibility of individuals and states.
- to know and be able to apply the principles of international disaster response law

International disaster response law:

Students learn

- the legal regulation pertaining to humanitarian assistance, and
- to apply the principles of international disaster response law

International human rights law and international criminal law:

Students learn

- to understand the mechanisms of human rights protection
- the difference between human rights protection systems on the universal and regional level
- to understand the relationship between human rights and international humanitarian law
- to be acquainted with the protection offered to vulnerable groups such as minorities and refugees

International humanitarian law:

Students learn

- To understand the legal regulation pertaining to humanitarian assistance
- to characterize an armed conflict
- to apply the principles of international humanitarian law
- to understand the protection offered by international humanitarian law to civilians, POWS and the sick and wounded

European law:

Students learn

- to understand the history of the European Union
- to understand the main institutions of the EU
- to understand the legislative procedure of the EU
- to discuss the future of the EU

4. Programme and training activities

Date	Lecturer	Topic
05.10.2016 10:00 – 11:30	Thielbörger	Introduction to International Law
05.10.2016 11:45-13:15	Thielbörger	Methodology: Law for Nonlawyers
12.10.2016 10:00 – 13:15	Heintze	Public International Law
19.10.2016 10:00 – 13:15	Heintze	Public International Law
26.10.2016 10:00 – 13:15	Thielbörger	International Human Rights Law



02.11.2016 14:00 – 17:00	Thielbörger	International Human Rights Law
09.11.2016 10:00 – 13:15	Hofmann	International Humanitarian Law
16.11.2016 10:00 – 11:30	Behlert/Bertamini	Moot Court Workshop
21.11.2016 14:15 – 17:30	Hofmann	International Humanitarian Law
23.11.2016 10:00 – 13:15	Thielbörger	International Human Rights Law (Human Rights Moot Court)
30.11.2016 10:00 – 13:15	Thielbörger	International Criminal Law
07.12.2016 10:00 – 13:15	Heintze	Disaster Response Law
14.12.2016 10:00 – 13:15	Fenrich/Ramsahye	European Law
21.12.2016 10:00 – 13:15	Ackermann/ Stollmann	Law Tutorial
19.01.2017 10:00 – 12:00	Ackermann/ Stollmann	Tutorial: Exam preparation
23.01.2017 tba	Lecturers	Oral Exam Students will be examined in small groups.

5. Workload

Students' time input

Lectures	40 hours
Moot Court Preparation	20 hours
Reading	30 hours
Tutorial	5 hours
Preparation for the examination	30 hours
Total	125 hours

6. Assessment criteria

Criteria for assessment

Elements	Due date	Share
Human Rights Moot Court (Midterm Exam)	23.11.2016	33%
Oral Examination	23.01.2017	66%
Individual Grade		100 %

Grades will be determined by an oral examination (66%) to be held in January 2015 and the Human Rights Moot Court in November 2015 (33%) which serves as midterm exam. For the final examination, students will be examined in small groups of 3-5 students. The first questions are



abstract and can be answered from the course lectures. The remaining questions relate to a given case that students will solve by applying the gained knowledge. The competences listed above as “Outcome (Product)” must then be shown to the examiners.

7. Appendices

Required reading

- M. Dixon, *International Law*, 7th Edition, Oxford University Press, 2014, Chapter 1, 2, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12.
- P. Thielbörger, *International Criminal Law*, NOHA-Textbook (made available by lecturers).
- ICRC, *International Humanitarian Law. Answers to your Questions*, 2002, <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/publication/p0703.htm>.
- R. Cryer et al. (2010) *An Introduction to International Criminal Law and Procedure*, Chapter I: Introduction - What is International Criminal Law? 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press, pp. 3-21.

Additional reading (not required)

- T. Buergenthal & S.D. Murphy, *Law In A Nutshell: Public International Law*, West Group, 2002.
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, *International Disaster Response Laws, Principles and Practice: Reflections, Prospects and Challenges*, 2003 (to be ordered with the IFRC).
- F. Kalshoven & L. Zegveld, *Constraints on the Waging of War: An Introduction to International Humanitarian Law*, International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva, 2001, (available at [http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/p0793/\\$File/ICRC_002_0793.PDF!Open](http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/p0793/$File/ICRC_002_0793.PDF!Open)).
- C. Krause/M. Scheinin (eds.), *International Protection of Human Rights: A Textbook*, Abo 2009.
- P. Malanczuk, *Akehurst's Modern Introduction to International Law*, 7th ed. pp. 35-62; 75-90; 91-108; 130-146.

