

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE IN TODAY'S WORLD

CONTENT, PROGRESS AND PEDAGOGY OF THE MODULE

- This course centers around the international law issues that bear upon today's world. The list of issues can include legal responses to current threats to maritime security, such as piracy or hybrid attacks on ships, internet cables and pipelines. The nature of armed conflict is changing and, with a starting point in current wars across the globe, the course will explore the laws surrounding modern conflicts that are challenging legal classifications of, for example, aggression, occupation, self-determination, genocide, torture and other new forms of international crime, such as 'ecocide'. In addition, the course will examine the issues of AI-warfare and international law. The course will also delve into the application of international law to other major threats to human and national security, including the problem of externalization of protection of national borders, which impacts on vulnerable people, such as smuggled refugees and migrants at sea, people in crowded and unsafe detention, or women and children stranded in Syrian camps; and the problem of climate change, looking at a human rights and other legal approaches in international climate change litigation.

To explore these issues, the course begins by establishing an understanding of the building blocks of international law, including the setting, legal actors, principles and the sources of international law, the international law regimes and the institutions, such as international courts and tribunals, and the relationship of international law to national law. This foundation is then explored and expanded on, directly in relation to current situations that draw on and challenge international law in today's world. The students' course preparation is supported by tools such as 'talking power-points' and quizzes, and students' legal problem solving is facilitated by combining lectures with follow-up guest-lectures and workshops, where students apply their knowledge to legal problems in international relations.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

KNOWLEDGE

- The development of international law, and the involvement of states and other legal actors
- The main legal principles and legal functions of international law
- International legal concepts, such as sovereignty, jurisdiction, responsibility, nationality
- The sources of international law
- The relationship between international law and national law
- The legal fields, frameworks and institutions of international law

SKILLS

- Use the terminology and concepts of international law
- Independently identify international law problems
- Identify relevant sources of international law
- Interpret and apply principles and provisions of international law
- Present and explain orally and in writing legal analysis and findings in international law
- Understand and challenge the deficiencies of the international law system

COMPETENCES

- Identifying, analysing and discussing legal solutions to problems within the field

- Analysing the connections between various areas of international law and national law
- Advising on the rights and obligations of governments, state authorities or other organizations on past, present and potential legal issues under international law
- Advising on how to access judicial remedies in different fields of international law
- Analyzing, researching and presenting an academic study of a legal problem under international law

PRE-REQUISITES

- Students are expected to have completed several years of legal studies at the bachelor level. A prior knowledge of international law is not a pre-requisite but is an advantage.

TYPE OF INSTRUCTION

- Lectures, with interactive and problem-oriented discussion, combined with problem-based workshops and facilitation of short project writing.

EXTENT AND EXPECTED WORKLOAD

- 270 hours

EXAMINATION

Name of exam	International Law and the Protection of People in Today's World
Type of Exam	Oral exam based on a supplementary, workshop-based, mini-project, which can be prepared individually or in groups of 2-3 20 minutes per student (including evaluation and feedback)
ECTS	10
Permitted aids	With certain aids: A clean copy of the mini-project can be brought into the exam and a single page per student for the presentation only, with keywords in point-form
Assessment	7-point grading scale
Type of grading	External examination
Criteria of assessment	The criteria of assessment are stated in the Examination Policies and Procedures

FACTS ABOUT THE MODULE

Danish title	Folkeret og beskyttelse af mennesker i verden i dag
Module code	
Module type	Course
Duration	4 weeks, including 1 week of own preparation, two weeks tuition and one examination week, including preparation-time for the examination
Semester	Summer School
ECTS	10
Language of instruction	English

Empty-place Scheme	Yes
Location of the lecture	Campus Aalborg
Responsible for the module	Fenella Billing
Used in Curriculum for the Master's programme in LL.M. (Master of Laws), 2025. Curriculum for the Master's programme in Business Administration and Commercial Law, 2024	

ORGANISATION

Study Board	Study Board of Law
Department	Department of Law
Faculty	Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

LITERATURE

- Klabbers, J., International Law (4th edn., CUP, 2024) (TBC)
- A selection of book chapters, articles and other publications announced in advance of the beginning of the course
- Relevant treaties and other legal instruments