

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Social Sciences and Humanities
Programme:	International Relations Political Science
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	The Politics of International Law
Course Code:	INR 6102
Total Hours:	160
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	15
Independent Learning:	100
Credits:	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

This course examines the concept, scope and nature of Public International Law and its significance in the context of the international political system. It examines the sources of international law, theories of state participation and compliance, and legal-political mechanisms of enforcements. The course explores key issues in international law such as: the rights and duties of states, economic and environmental law, the legality of the use of force and of the conduct of warfare, human rights and international criminal law, the role of international tribunals and more. Students consider the politics of law-making, compliance and enforcement in different issue areas, and contend with the impact of fragmentation and self-regulation on the effectiveness of international law in a range of case studies.

Prerequisites:

One of the following:

PLT 5201 Research Methods: Social Sciences

INR 5101 Conflict and Conflict Resolution

INR 5105 International Human Rights

CRM 5400 Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Aims and Objectives:

- To acquaint students with the politics of public international law and its main actors, norms and institutions
- To critically evaluate the relationship between international law and international relations
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields (including work in government, international organisations, business and the media) which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of the politics of international law
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that are of increasing importance in the 21st century
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of both a succinct writing style, and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

International Relations: A6(ii); A6(iv); B6(i); B6(iv); C6(i); C6(iii); D6(ii); D6(iii)

Political Science: A6ii, A6iv, B6i, B6iv, C6i, C6iii, D6ii, D6iii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Demonstrates the ability to develop critical responses to, and a systematic and historical understanding of, approaches taken in the political study of international law
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of concepts of power and influence as they manifest themselves in the contextualisation of international law
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of key texts and debates in the politics of international law, and the reflexive relationship between these and empirical studies of the politics of international law
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of the power and influence of international law in the broader context of international relations
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of major thematic debates in the politics of international law
- Takes responsibility for their own learning, and completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, contextualisation, critical thinking, and reflexive normative understanding appropriate for a 6000-level course

Indicative Content:

- Nature and scope of public international law
- Rights and duties of states under international law
- Sources of public international law
- theories and mechanisms of enforcement and compliance
- Dispute settlement procedures and tribunals in international law
- Issue areas such as the use of force, humanitarian law, international economic law, international environmental law, human rights law

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

Lectures provide a framework for the course, and are designed to ensure students have an overview of main issues and concerns on a particular topic, receive clarification on the major points of debate understand the broad dimensions of core problems, and are aware of relevant literature in the specific area of concern. It is essential that lectures are supplemented with assigned readings; together, the readings and the lectures are designed to provide guidance for seminar discussion.

Seminar classes are based on the principle of active and student-directed learning, and are designed to be Safe, Enjoyable, Managed, Inclusive, Necessary, Academic, Respectful & Stimulating. The seminars provide an opportunity for discussion of contentious issues, addressing questions and exploring academic debates in more depth, group and sub-group discussion. They are encouraged to share their opinions freely, but must also maintain respect for the opinions of others. It is expected that students will participate regularly in discussions in a creative, competent and critical way, as the formulation of their own thoughts and clarification of their assumptions, often in contradiction to other students' thoughts and assumptions, form a crucial part of the learning process. Students are expected to come to seminar classes prepared.

Indicative Texts:

Orakhelashvili A. (2019). *Akehurst's Modern Introduction to International Law*. 8th ed. Routledge.

Joyner, C. C. (2005) *International Law in the 21st Century*. Rowman and Littlefield.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	