

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTFC.

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: International Relations

FHEQ Level: 6

Course Title: The Politics of International Law

Course Code: INR6210

Course Leader: Dr Mike Keating

Student Engagement Hours: 120

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning : 75

Semester: FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
6 ECTS credits
3 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 both the legal approach to international politics and the IR approach to public international law. The course explores key issues in international law such as: the nature of international laws, the significance of state practice, the sources and jurisdiction of law, the role of law in limiting the use of force, governing environmental politics and trade.. Questions of statehood are examined and case studies discussed to shed light on the controversies that characterise legal debates such as evaluation of the war in Iraq, the independence of Kosovo and South Sudan, the attitudes of the US towards international law, the role of International Tribunals and the United Nations.

Pre-requisites: INR 5200 or INR 5205 or DEV 5100

Aims and Objectives:

- To acquaint students with the nature, scope and key concepts of public international law
- To explore in some detail the intricate web of international legal norms and institutions
- To situate international relations actors within the framework of public international law
- To critically evaluate the relationship between international law and international relations

Programme Outcomes:

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

6A(ii); 6A(iii); 6A(iv); 6B(i); 6B(iv); 6C(i); 6C(iii); 6C(iv); 6D(ii); 6D(iv)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

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
- Sources of public international law
- States and non-state actors and public international law
- Dispute settlement procedures in international law – ICJ and ICC
- Case studies in the politics of international law – the use of force, trade, international environmental law
- Politics and power of public international law

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

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.

