

COURSE SYLLABUS

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Degree:	
Double Degree:	Derecho y Administración y Dirección de Empresas (English teaching)
Course:	PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW (Derecho Internacional Público. English teaching)
Module:	
Department:	Public International Law and International Relations
Term:	Second term
Total Credits:	6
Year:	4º
Type of Course:	Basic
Course Language:	English

Teaching model:	A1	
a. General/background:		70%
b. Theory-into-practice/developmental knowledge-building		30%
c. Guided Academic Activities:		



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2. COURSE COORDINATOR

Course coordinator: Gloria Fernández Arribas

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3. ACADEMIC CONTEXT

3.1. Course Description and Objectives

The aim of this course is the teaching of the law applied in international society, facilitating the understanding of the basic problems involved in it, and the response of Public International law to those problems.

From a legal perspective, the International Law is explained to the students in a positive dimension, offering a great number of references to international norms. This perspective is completed by a historical and sociological approach.

Given these objectives, students will be taught:

- When, how, why is the developed the process of creation of the international society.
- How it has evolved and what the future trends are predictable.
- What are the values and interests of the international society.
- What are the institutions of the international society.
- What are the regulatory instruments of public international law and its implementation procedures.
- What are the mechanisms for implementing public international law, consequences of its failure and the main functions performed in the international society.

3.2. Contribution to the Training Plan

Public International Law, which is the system that regulates international society, affects and influences many branches of Spanish national law. In a globalized world, where the intensity of the international relations between actors and subjects of international society is growing up, and where it is increasing the involvement of emerging players with relevance in international law, it is essential the knowledge of international law in the training of a lawyer. The specificity of public international law, its implementation and application can be extended to national legal systems .

3.3. Recommendations or Prerequisites

It is highly recommended to have prior legal knowledge to attend this course, and particularly knowledge of Administrative Law and Constitutional Law in order to get into the complex structure of international society and its legal system.

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4. SKILLS

4.1 Degree Skills Developed during this Course

Problem solving with the ability to analyze and synthesis.

Ability to apply knowledge in practice.

Ability to understand the ethical consequences of a decision

Ability to communicate orally and in writing in a second language with both experts and non-experts.

Ability to learn and to reflect on one own's learning and seek and make use of feed-back

Ability to commit oneself to a task.

Ability to contribute to and to participate at teamwork

Ability to cooperate in an international environment

Ability to conduct academic and professional research efficiently

4.2. Module Skills Developed during this Course

It should be noted that the Introd Knowledge and understanding of principal features and key concepts and principles of the legal system including European and International dimension (including institutions and procedures)

Ability to take a sound and motivated legal decision.

In-depth knowledge of specialist legal areas

Ability to identify and apply the legal sources using a legal method

Ability to read a range of complex material and to summarise their arguments accurately

Ability to identify and foresee contemporary debates and engage with these while accurately reporting the applicable law

Ability to individuate different legal solutions, to weigh their argumentative strength and to analyse outcomes of a legal problem and to outline alternative solutions

Ability to express oneself in a fluent technical language using precise, clear legal terms.

4.3. Course-specific Skills

Understanding of international society, its institutions and legal acts;

Understanding the link between legal systems;

Understanding legal categories of public international law.

Ability to analyze the essential characteristics of the evolution and regulation of international society and the development of its legal system .

Understanding of the consequences of the evolution of international society and Public International law, and its interaction with Spanish law.

Proper use of legal terminology; management of databases, texts, documents, and international standards.

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5. COURSE CONTENT (COURSE TOPICS)

Unit 1: The main legal features of the International Community

- 1.1. The nature of International Legal Subjects
- 1.2. The lack of central authority and decentralization of legal “functions”
- 1.3. Collective Responsibility

Unit 2: Subjects of International

- 2.1. States
 - A. Commencement of the existence of States
 - B. The role of recognition
 - C. Continuity and termination of the existence of States
 - D. The spatial dimension of States activities: Territory, Sea and Air
- 2.2. Other international legal subjects
 - A. Insurgents
 - B. International Organizations
 - C. Individuals

Unit 3: Fundamental Principles governing International Relations

- 3.1. The sovereign equality of States
- 3.2. Immunity and other limitations on sovereignty
- 3.3. Non- intervention in the internal or external affairs of other States
- 3.4. Prohibition of the threat or use of force
- 3.5. Respect for human rights

Unit 4: International Law-making

- 4.1. Custom
- 4.2. Treaties.
- 4.3. Ius cogens
- 4.4. Unilateral acts
- 4.5. Implementation of International rules within national systems

Unit 5: State Responsibility

- 5.1. Subjective and objective elements of international delinquency
- 5.2. Circumstances precluding wrongfulness
- 5.3. Consequences of the wrongful act.



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Unit 6: Enforcement of International Law

- 6.1. Counter-measures
- 6.2. Sanctions

Unit 7: Mechanisms for settling disputes

- 7.1. Mechanisms for promoting agreements: Negotiation, Inquiry, Good Offices, Mediation and Conciliation
- 7.2. Mechanisms for settling disputes by binding decisions: Arbitration and International Court of Justice.

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6. METHODOLOGY AND RESOURCES

General Teaching

A series of basic activities will be carried out as a large group, 2 hour sessions with the lecturer. In these sessions the lecturer will provide a basic theoretical framework for the course by topic. The content of the sessions will vary according to when they occur throughout the course. Please refer to the Weekly Schedule for detailed information regarding when these sessions will take place.

Practical Work/Teaching

Eight 1.5-hour 'theory-into-practice' sessions. Please refer to the Weekly Schedule for detailed information, by groups, regarding when these session will take place.

In these sessions the lecturer will coordinate practical learning activities. As it may not always be possible to cover every topic in depth, students are encouraged to make good use of the required textbook and other relevant bibliography.

Pertinent theoretical/practical questions and problems will be explained and discussed. Concepts learned in the Theory classes will be put into practice and explored.

Practical learning and knowledge-building sessions are designed for regular attendance. There will be a special emphasis on the applicability of the course. Theoretical and practical questions will be covered, along with current international news, with an aim to apply concepts learned in theory sessions. Theory-into-practice sessions are designed around three main goals: to consolidate theoretical knowledge acquired through reading the required textbook and attending class; to learn to apply theoretical models to specific real-world problems; to build reasoning and critical thinking skills. These sessions are aimed at making students more aware of their progress as well as of their weaknesses with regard to the comprehension and assimilation of course material. The lecturer will pay special attention to points students find difficult and focus on key concepts /skills. In turn, students will solve problems relating to course topics, resolve doubts and prepare presentations with the help of the professor. The aim here is for students to develop information-gathering, in-depth analysis and synthesis skills while acquiring knowledge about a given subject.

Active participation in class discussions and completion of all assignments will be valued highly when it comes to assessing students.



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7. ASSESSMENT

The proportion of different educational activities is as follows: General Teaching (GT) constitute 70% of the training activities undertaken in the course. The remaining 30% consists of practical work in seminars (PT).

The assessment system will maintain consistency with the training activities undertaken in this type of subject.

General Teaching (GT), specific skills and learning tools acquired will be assessed through a final exam. This will make up 70% of the final grade for the course.

Practical Teaching (PT) will be evaluated through continuous assessment. This ongoing evaluation will include both an exam and activities designed to reinforce the specific skills acquired in lectures (GT). PT assessment makes up the remaining 30% of the final grade for the course.

In the second exam session (June) students will have the opportunity of retaking an exam only of the part corresponding to GT or, instead, of also retaking the exam of the part corresponding to PT. If the student decides to take an additional exam regarding the PT, he will have to let the teacher in charge know 10 days before the exam.



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8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cassese, A. *International Law*, Oxford University Press, 2001.

Thirlway, H. W. A., *The sources of international law*, Oxford University Press, 2014

Conforti, B. *An introduction to international law*, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2012.

Brownlie, I. *Principles of public international law*, Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2008

Murphy, *Principles of International Law*, Thomson/West, 2006

Malanczuk, *Akehurst's Modern introduction to international law*, Routledge, 2004

Shaw, M. M. *International law*, Cambridge University Press, 2001