



Exeter College Summer Programme Introduction to International Law

Course Leader: Professor Laura Sjoberg, laura.sjoberg@politics.ox.ac.uk

Course Description:

This course seeks to provide students with an understanding of the logistics and substance of public international law, that is, the law that applies to how states relate to other states and some non-state actors in global politics. It asks what laws exist in the global political arena and how those laws affect the structure, content, and outcomes of global political, social, and economic interactions. As such, the course explores both what international law is (how it comes to be, and when and how it matters), as well as various places in which international law might matter in the international arena (both in terms of the structure of the international arena and issues that arise in contemporary international relations).

Course Objectives:

- 1) To increase students' understanding of the structure and function of law in the international arena; and
- 2) To prepare students to engage critically with legal, political, social, and economic questions that arise in international law.

Teaching:

12 * 1.25 hour lectures
6 * 1.25 hour seminars
4* 1 hour tutorials

Assessment:

This course will be assessed by a three-hour end-of-course exam (60%) in addition to a 2,000 word policy brief asking students to apply what they have learned in the class about international law to a pressing policy issue in the contemporary international arena.

Readings:

The core text for this book will be:

Crawford, James. 2019. *Brownlie's Principles of Public International Law*. 9th Edition.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/he/9780198737445.001.0001> Online or Print versions are acceptable.

References in the reading list below to 'Crawford' refer to this text. Required reading is expected to be finished prior to the lectures, and the further reading is meant to prepare students for the seminars, tutorials, and assessments which follow those lectures.

Lecture 1: What is International Law?

Required Reading: Crawford, chs. 1 and 3

Further Reading:

- Lacin Idil Ozig, "International Law and International Relations: Quo Vadis?" *Alternatives* (2024) <https://doi.org/10.1177/03043754241236310>

Lecture 2: The Subjects of International Law

Required Reading: Crawford, chs. 4, 5, and 7

Further Reading:

- Alexander Wendt, "The State as Person in International Relations Theory," *Review of International Studies* 30(2) (2004), 289-316.
- Crawford, ch.20
- Kevin C. Dunn, "There is No Such Thing as the State: Discourse, Effect, and Performativity," *Forum for Development Studies* 37(1) (2010), 79-92.

Seminar 1: The Nature and Subjects of International Law

Lecture 3: The Sources of International Law

Required Reading: Crawford, chs. 2 and 16

Further Reading:

- *Akayesu* decision, 106-122, 167-170 (factual and legal findings on genocidal rape)
- The Treaty of Versailles, June 28, 1919, p.49-60.
- Claudius Messner, "'Living' Law: Performative, Not Discursive," *International Journal of Semiotic Law* 25(2) (2012), 537-552.

Lecture 4: Jurisdiction

Required Reading: Crawford, chs. 20, 21, 22

Further Reading:

- Lori F Damsroch, "Challenges to the International Law of Sovereign Immunity through National Decisions," *Vanderbilt Journal of International Law* 44(4) (2011), 1185-1200.

- Marc L. Busch, "Overlapping Institutions, Forum Shopping, and Dispute Settlement in International Trade," *International Organization* 61(4) (2007), p.735-761.
- Crawford, ch.24

Seminar 2: Sources of International Law and Jurisdiction

Lectures 5 & 6: Territory, Land & Sea

Required Reading: Crawford, chs. 8, 9, 11, 12

Further Reading:

- Crawford, ch.10
- ICJ Decision: Frontier Dispute, Burkina Faso v. Republic of Mali, 22 December 1986, p.586-588.
- Brian Taylor Summer, "Territorial Disputes at the International Court of Justice," *Duke Law Journal* 53 (2004), 1779-1812.
- Douglas Gibling, "Bordering on Peace: Democracy, Territorial Issues, and Conflict," *International Studies Quarterly* 51(3) (2007), 509-532.

Seminar 3: Territory, Land & Sea

Lecture 7 & 8: The Law of Responsibility

Required Reading: Crawford, chs. 25, 26, 27

Further Reading:

- Tessa Davis, "Taking International Law at its Word and Spirit: Re-Envisioning Responsibility to Protect as a Binding Principle in International Law," *Florida State Law Review* 38(4) (2011), 883-909.
- James Pattison, "The international responsibility to protect in a post-liberal order." *International Studies Quarterly* 65.4 (2021): 891-904.
- Coralie Pison Hindawi, "Decolonizing the Responsibility to Protect: On pervasive Eurocentrism, Southern agency and struggles over universals." *Security Dialogue* 53.1 (2022): 38-56.

Seminar 4: The Law of Responsibility

Lecture 9: International Human Rights Law

Required Reading: Crawford, chs. 28 and 29

Further Reading:

- Payam Akhavan, "Self-Referrals Before the International Criminal Court: Are States the Villains or the Victims of Atrocities?" *Criminal Law Forum* 21(1) (2010), 103-120.

- Noam Schimmel, "Trapped by Sovereignty: The Fate of Internally Displaced Persons and Their Lack of Equal Human Rights Protection Under International Law." *World Affairs* 185.3 (2022): 500-529.
- Laurel E. Fletcher, "Power and the International Human Rights Imaginary: A Critique of Practice." *Journal of Human Rights Practice* 14.3 (2022): 749-768.

Lecture 10: International Criminal Law

Required Reading: Crawford, ch.30; Lyal Sunga, *The Emerging System of International Criminal Law*, Introduction and Chapter 6

Further Reading:

- Lyal Sunga, *The Emerging System of International Criminal Law*, ch.4, 5, and 7

Seminar 5: International Human Rights Law and International Criminal Law

Lecture 11: The Law of the Use of Force

Required Reading: Crawford, ch.33; Kyle Rapp, "Justifying force: international law, foreign policy decision-making, and the use of force." *European Journal of International Relations* 28.2 (2022): 337-360.

Further Reading:

Tarcisio Gazzini, *The Changing Rules on the Use of Force in International Law*. Manchester University Press, 2005, chs. 4 and 5.

Lecture 12: The Law of the Environment and Resources

Required Reading: Crawford, ch.14 & 15

Further Reading:

Daniel Bodan, *The Art and Craft of International Environmental Law* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024, chs. 1 and 13.

Seminar 6: Substantive International Law