



Online Academic Summer School 2021
SOAS University of London

International Law
Course Handbook

Mode of Attendance: Full-time, Online

Duration: 2 weeks

SOAS Accredited: This course is worth 15 UK credits

Programme Description

This course provides students with a basic understanding of international law, focusing on foundational structures that are necessary to engage with any international legal issue. In addition students are introduced to a number of contemporary problems of world order that require the application of the foundational rules and structures to develop awareness of both the limitations and potential of international law as a tool for change. Students will leave the course with the capacity to address international legal problems with confidence as well as awareness of specific contemporary issues and how international law is dealing with emergent and on-going concerns including: the relationship between business and human rights; refugees; technology; feminism; and the use of force outside of the collective security structures.

Programme Schedule and Topics:

- Introduction to international law
- Sources of international law
- Subjects of international law
- Jurisdiction and Immunities
- State responsibility
- Law of the Sea
- International Environmental Law
- International Human Rights Law
- Self-determination of Peoples
- International Criminal Law
- Business and Human Rights
- Refugees
- Feminism
- Technology: Drones
- Collective Security – the authorisation of force

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, students should be able to:

- Understanding of the foundations of international law, including the sources of international law, statehood, state immunity, and state responsibility for breaches of international obligations
- Capacity for critical interrogation of specific regimes within international law, in particular international environmental law; law of the sea; international human rights law; international criminal law; and collective security structures
- Ability to reflect and engage with the spaces for transformation of international law to address persistent inequalities within the global order.

Assessment

Each course is assessed by two online assessments ('e-tivities'*) comprising of 30%, the remaining 70% is formed of a 2,500 word essay. The e-tivities provide formative and summative feedback to students as a means of monitoring their progress and encouraging areas in which they can improve. On successful completion of the assessments, students will receive a transcript confirming the credit awarded. Students that do not require credit are strongly encouraged to take part in the e-tivities, but are not required to complete the assessments.

* An 'e-tivity' is a framework for online, active and interactive learning following a format that states clearly to the students its 'Purpose'; the 'Task' at hand; the contribution or 'Response' type; and the 'Outcome' (Salmon, G. (2002) *E-tivities: The Key to Active Online Learning*, New York and London: Routledge Falmer.)

Course Convenor

Dr Catriona Drew

Introductory Readings and Sources

Malcolm Evans (ed.), *International Law* (5th ed., Oxford University Press, 2018)

Or

Jan Klabbers, *International Law* (2nd ed., Cambridge University Press, 2017)

Cases and Materials

David Harris & Sandesh Sivakumaran (eds), *Cases and Materials on International Law* (8th ed., Sweet and Maxwell, 2015)

