

International Law course specification

The aim of this course will be for the students to gain an understanding of what international law is. This will entail looking at a brief history and theory of international law and the sources of international law and its application in order to gain a practical perspective.

For the first two weeks of the course

Introduction to international law – history and theory

What is international law for? Converging interests, the significance of statehood

Sources of international law – e.g., generally, custom, treaties, general principles, judicial decisions, writers

The application of international law:- international human rights law

At the end of the two week course, students will be able to identify what international law is, its sources, current issues relating to the sources of international law and how international law has helped the course of human rights across the globe.

For the second two weeks of the course

Introduction to international law – history and theory

Sources of international law – e.g., unilateral Acts of States, general assembly resolutions, soft law, codification and progressive development of international law

The application of international law:- International environmental law and international criminal law

At the end of the second two weeks, students will be able to identify further sources of international law, how international law can be applied in our day to day life and what current problems have been identified in its application.

Essential reading

International law, 4th edition edited by Malcom D Evans, 2014. Oxford University Press

Further reading

Cases and materials on international law, 8th edition by David Harris and Sandesh Sivakumaran, 2015. Sweet & Maxwell

International law by Jan Klabbers, 2015. Cambridge University Press