

LW4634: PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Public International Law

Subject Code

LW - Law

Course Number

4634

Academic Unit

School of Law (FL)

College/School

School of Law (FL)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

LW5634 Public International Law

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to:

- provide an introduction to general principles of international law;
- explain the relationship between international law and municipal law and the significance of international law in domestic legal order;
- introduce students to various branches of international law.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)		
1	Understand and evaluate the economic and political background of public international law.			x
2	Identify and analyze the aspects that need to be taken into account from a legal and practical point of view when advising governments or international organizations on questions of public international law.			x
3	Develop convincing lines of argument in relation to theoretical and practical questions in relation to current problems of public international law.			x
4	Draft and construe international treaties and other relevant legal documents.		x	x
5	Negotiate related issues with other parties.		x	x
6	Prepare opinions, tender advice or recommending action (orally or in writing) in respect to legal issues concerning public international law.			x
7	Explain and communicate, both orally and in writing, the substantive rules of public international law clearly, coherently and in plain language.		x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Students will be introduced to and have explained to them in plain language the key concepts, theoretical bases, issues, objectives and practical application in respect of specific topics. Students will also be encouraged to ask questions of matters which they do not understand.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	3 hours/ week
2	Class Case	Using Socratic method instructor will teach cases to students. Students will presentations, discussion of respond/discuss cases problem questions and case studies that will check and reinforce students' understanding and ability to evaluate the key concepts, theoretical basis, issues, objectives and practical application in respect of specific topics. Develop self-confidence in application of legal principles, advocacy skills and public speaking. Foster students' growth through development of greater intellectual and interpersonal maturity.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Weekly Case Presentation	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	30	Students will participate in weekly case discussions. This will enable students to understand and orally communicate substantive rules that were created in the cases. The presentations will further enhance the student's ability to coherently explain the created rules in writing.	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

30

Examination (%)

70

Examination Duration (Hours)

3

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

0

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

30

Additional Information for ATs**Final Examination (Open Book)**

This is in the form of problem questions and case studies. This will enable each student's ability to explain and communicate substantive rules of public international law in writing clearly, coherently and in plain language to be assessed.

The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.

Grading of Student Achievement: Standard (A+, A, A-...F). Grading is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities.

To pass each course, students need a total score of at least 40% and a minimum of 30% in both the continuous assessment (CA) component and final exam component.

To ensure fair and comprehensive assessment of students' course performance, the pass mark requirement for the CA component will be waived for courses with a CA component equal to or less than 30%. This means students only need to achieve the pass marks for the final exam component AND the overall mark to pass the course. Continuous assessment for this purpose means those ways in which students are assessed otherwise than by the end of semester examination.

The duration of the final open book examination may be 3 hours. The portion of the overall mark allocated to performance during in-class activities will be assessed on the quality of the participation.

To enable the full benefit to be obtained from this course, students should attend all of the classes and activities.

Assessment will be formative to enable students to demonstrate their capacity to understand, analyse and apply rules and principles and summative to assess ability to synthesise primary and secondary material to solve novel problems.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

1. Coursework (Weekly Case Presentation)

Criterion

Demonstration of concentration on lectures and class discussions. Demonstration of ability and willingness to answer questions in class and to participate in class/group discussion. Demonstration of oral presentation skills and willingness. Demonstration of attention and patience to other students' speech or presentation. Demonstration of full respect for different opinions from others in the class. Confidence building and students' maturity

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.

Marginal (D)

Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.

Failure (F)

Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

Assessment Task

2. Examination

Criterion

Demonstration of understanding of concepts, principles, and theories. Demonstration of ability to identify legal issues. Application of knowledge to specific legal problems, to discuss questions, and to comment on legal phenomenon. Application of legal writing and research skills. Demonstration of ability to engage in argument-based analysis based on critical thinking. Demonstration of aptitude for formulating innovative solutions to designated fact-based questions.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.

Marginal (D)

Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.

Failure (F)

Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Introduction to international law; history of international law; sources of international law; subjects of international law; international law and national law, law of treaties; international organizations, United Nations; Basic principles of inter-State relations; Territory; settlement of international disputes; use of force; international human rights and humanitarian law; international water law economic and financial law; the future of international law; State responsibility

Reading List