UNSW Course Outline

ZGEN2215 Law, Force and Legitimacy - 2024

Published on the 30 Jun 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : ZGEN2215
Year : 2024
Term : Semester 2
Teaching Period : Z2
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : UNSW Canberra
Academic Unit : UC School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Delivery Mode : In Person
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : UNSW Canberra at ADFA
Campus : UNSW Canberra
Study Level : Undergraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

We live in a rules-based international order. Have you ever wanted to know how states resolve
territorial disputes or justify the use of force? What is a war crime and how do the laws of armed
conflict function in operational and strategic contexts? What happens to the legitimacy of states

and military actors when these laws are violated or ignored?

Drawing upon contemporary geopolitical examples such as Iraq, the South China Sea and Ukraine, Module 1 combines legal and political analysis to develop a critical understanding of territorial disputes and arguments justifying the use of force. Module 2 demonstrates how the laws of armed conflict are applied to complex operational examples. Module 3 evaluates broader strategic and legitimacy challenges raised by new forms of conflict and military technology.

Tailored actionable formative feedback is provided throughout the course and used to scaffold your final ePortofolio assignment. This final assignment will culminate in a strategic appraisal of an authentic command problem and a short reflective analysis utilising creative interactive audio/visual communication tools such as VoiceThread to draw upon any element of the course.

Course Aims

The course will provide a foundational introduction to the operational and strategic applications of international law and international humanitarian law. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- *Demonstrate* an introductory comprehension of the international law (IL) of territorial disputes and the use of force;
- *Deliver* a collaborative presentation on the application of an International Humanitarian Law (IHL) rule in an operational context;
- *Appraise* the challenges of integrating IL and IHL in a strategic context and;
- *Reflect* upon a specific element of the course in terms of its implications for legitimacy.

Relationship to Other Courses

This is a General Studies course.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Demonstrate an introductory comprehension of the international law (IL) of territorial disputes and the use of force
CLO2 : Deliver a collaborative presentation on the application of an International Humanitarian Law (IHL) rule in an operational context.
CLO3 : Appraise the challenges of integrating IL and IHL in a strategic context
CLO4 : Reflect upon a specific element of the course in terms of its implications for legitimacy.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Demonstrate an introductory comprehension of the international law (IL) of territorial disputes and the use of force	• International Law Test
CLO2 : Deliver a collaborative presentation on the application of an International Humanitarian Law (IHL) rule in an operational context.	• IHL Presentation
CLO3 : Appraise the challenges of integrating IL and IHL in a strategic context	• Laws of Armed Conflict Test • ePortfolio • IHL Presentation
CLO4 : Reflect upon a specific element of the course in terms of its implications for legitimacy.	• ePortfolio

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | VoiceThread is an option for the Reflective Analysis | Blackboard Collaborate

Learning and Teaching in this course

Moodle is the Learning Management System used at UNSW Canberra.

All courses have a Moodle site which will become available to students at least one week before the start of semester. Please find all help and documentation (including Blackboard Collaborate) at the Moodle Support page.

UNSW Moodle supports the following web browsers:

- Google Chrome 50+
- Safari 10+
- Internet Explorer is not recommended
- Addons and Toolbars can affect any browser's performance.

Operating systems recommended are:

Windows 7, 10, Mac OSX Sierra, iPad IOS10

For further details about system requirements click here.

Log in to Moodle here.

Additional Course Information

Past students have valued the professional relevance of this course. In their course introductions, some have sought to learn more about specific issues such as territorial disputes directly impacting their own country; or the broader justifications for the use of force that mandated ADF operations. A number of course reflections explored the significance and implications of war crimes committed by ADF personnel. Others, speculated on how the laws of armed conflict might adapt to new technologies (such as cyber and AI) and new domains (such as Space).

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
International Law Test Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 5: 12 August - 16 August Post Date: 15/07/2024 09:00 AM
Laws of Armed Conflict Test Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 9: 23 September - 27 September Post Date: 15/07/2024 09:00 AM
IHL Presentation Assessment Format: Group	20%	Start Date: 15/07/2024 09:00 AM Due Date: 19/09/2024 11:59 PM Post Date: 15/07/2024 09:00 AM
ePortfolio Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: 15/07/2024 09:00 AM Due Date: 01/11/2024 11:59 PM Post Date: 15/07/2024 09:00 AM

Assessment Details

International Law Test

Assessment Overview

An in-class, online test drawing on material in Module I. The duration of the test is 50min

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Demonstrate an introductory comprehension of the international law (IL) of territorial disputes and the use of force

Detailed Assessment Description

An in-class, online test drawing on material in Module I to assess foundational understanding of IL as it relates to sovereignty, territory, disputes and the use of force. It will involve a mix of T/F

questions, short and longer (comprehension) multiple choice questions. The duration of the test is 50min.

Assessment Length

50 Mins

Submission notes

Inspera

Assessment information

Online Test on Inspera

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Laws of Armed Conflict Test

Assessment Overview

An in-class, online test drawing on material in Module II to assess foundational understanding of the law of armed conflict. The duration of the test is 50min

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO3 : Appraise the challenges of integrating IL and IHL in a strategic context

Detailed Assessment Description

An in-class, online test drawing on material in Module II to assess foundational understanding of the law of armed conflict. It will involve a mix of T/F questions, short and longer (comprehension) multiple choice questions. The duration of the test is 50min.

Assessment Length

50 Mins

Submission notes

Inspera

Assessment information

Online Test

Inspera

IHL Presentation

Assessment Overview

Groups work to produce a 10min slide presentation on an IHL rule selected from the ICRC customary IHL rule database and supported with independent research. The presentation will explore the application of an IHL rule in an operational context.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Deliver a collaborative presentation on the application of an International Humanitarian Law (IHL) rule in an operational context.
- CLO3 : Appraise the challenges of integrating IL and IHL in a strategic context

Detailed Assessment Description

THIS IS A GROUP ASSESSMENT

Prepare and present a 10min slide presentation (max 12 slides) on an IHL rule, prepared as a group. Drawing upon the ICRC customary IHL rule database and independent research, the presentation will explore the application of an IHL rule in an operational context. These collaborative presentations provide an opportunity to identify sticky problems and analyse how LOAC is applied to military operations. Effective teamwork provides individuals with an opportunity to demonstrate a capacity for professionalism and leadership.

Assessment Length

10 Minutes (max 12 slides)

Submission notes

Any member of the group can submit on behalf of all group members.

Assessment information

The slides must include a detailed transcript of the presentation written in the notes section of PowerPoint.

The presentation of these slides will take place in week 9 during the tutorials.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

ePortfolio

Assessment Overview

The ePortfolio has TWO components:

(a) STRATEGIC APPRAISAL (worth 20%). Write a 750 word strategic appraisal of an operational example (choices provided in Moodle).

AND

(b) REFLECTIVE ANALYSIS (worth 20%). Either a write a 750 word statement or record a 5 minute VoiceThread presentation (one slide, static background). Your reflection will respond to one of the thematic questions set out in Moodle.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO3 : Appraise the challenges of integrating IL and IHL in a strategic context
- CLO4 : Reflect upon a specific element of the course in terms of its implications for legitimacy.

Detailed Assessment Description

Details of this assessment is available on Moodle.

Assessment Length

2 x 750 words

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

General Assessment Information

Late Submission of Assessment

Unless prior arrangement is made with the lecturer or a formal application for special consideration is submitted, a penalty of 5% of the total available mark for the assessment will apply for each day that an assessment item is late up to a maximum of 5 days (120 hours) after which an assessment can no longer be submitted and a grade of 0 will be applied.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

Electronic submission of assessment

Except where the nature of an assessment task precludes its electronic submission, all assessments must be submitted to an electronic repository, approved by UNSW or the Faculty, for archiving and subsequent marking and analysis.

Release of final mark

All marks obtained for assessment items during the session are provisional. The final mark as published by the university following the assessment review group meeting is the only official mark.

Guidance on AI

It is prohibited to use any software or service to search for or generate information or answers. If such use is detected, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 15 July - 19 July	Module	Module I International Law
	Topic	Course Introduction Evolution of States, Sovereignty, War and Law
Week 2 : 22 July - 26 July	Topic	Territory / Sovereignty beyond 'terra firma
Week 3 : 29 July - 2 August	Topic	Collective Security Humanitarian Intervention and R2P
Week 4 : 5 August - 9 August	Topic	Just War Tradition / Jus ad bellum
Week 5 : 12 August - 16 August	Assessment	Module I InClass Test
	Module	Module II: Laws of Armed Conflict
	Group Work	Group Work Preparation: • Identify a rule from the ICRC Customary Rule Database • Allocate individual roles
Week 6 : 19 August - 23 August	Topic	What is 'Armed Conflict'? Military Necessity
	Group Work	Group Work Preparation • Evolution of the rule • Case law
Week 7 : 9 September - 13 September	Topic	Distinction Proportionality
	Group Work	Group Work Preparation • Application of the rule to operational examples
Week 8 : 16 September - 20 September	Topic	Precautions in Attack & Defence Humanity & Weapons Law
	Group Work	Group Work Preparation • Strategic and Legitimacy Analysis
Week 9 : 23 September - 27 September	Assessment	Module II InClass Test
	Group Work	Group Work Preparation • Final Edits • Prepare transcript
Week 10 : 30 September - 4 October	Module	Module III: Strategic Application
	Presentation	Groups Present their IHL/LOAC Presentation in the Tutorials
Week 11 : 7 October - 11 October	Online Activity	At own pace, complete the following self-directed sub-modules. You must select one of these for your Strategic Appraisal Individual + Command Accountability Command Culture Detention + Torture COIN + CIVCAS Space warfare Autonomous weapons
Week 12 : 14 October - 18 October	Online Activity	At own pace, complete the following self-directed sub-modules. You must select one of these for your Strategic Appraisal Individual + Command Accountability Command Culture Detention + Torture COIN + CIVCAS Space warfare Autonomous weapons
Week 13 : 21 October - 25 October	Online Activity	At own pace, complete the following self-directed sub-modules. You must select one of these for your Strategic Appraisal Individual + Command Accountability Command Culture Detention + Torture COIN + CIVCAS Space warfare Autonomous weapons

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

General Schedule Information

The Course is organised into three Modules with five pieces of assessment.

Module I International Law

- Module I InClass Test (20%)

Module II Laws of Armed Conflict

- Module II InClass Test (20%)
- Group IHL Presentation (20%)

Module II Strategic Applications

- EPortfolio
  - Strategic Appraisal (20%)
  - Reflective Analysis (20%)

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Readings available on Leganto

Recommended Resources

Customary IHL - IHL Databases - ICRC

Course Evaluation and Development

One of the key priorities in the 2025 Strategy for UNSW is a drive for academic excellence in education. One of the ways of determining how well UNSW is progressing towards this goal is by listening to our own students. Students will be asked to complete the myExperience survey towards the end of this course.

Students can also provide feedback during the semester via: direct contact with the lecturer, the "On-going Student Feedback" link in Moodle, Student-Staff Liaison Committee meetings in schools, informal feedback conducted by staff, and focus groups. Student opinions really do make a difference. Refer to the Moodle site for this course to see how the feedback from

previous students has contributed to the course development.

Important note: Students are reminded that any feedback provided should be constructive and professional and that they are bound by the Student Code of Conduct Policy

https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentcodepolicy.pdf

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
	Gavin Mount		28-214	+61 (2) 51145058	By appointment	Yes	Yes