



UNSW

UNSW Course Outline

LAWS8180 Principles of International Law - 2024

Published on the 16 May 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : LAWS8180

Year : 2024

Term : Term 2

Teaching Period : T2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Law and Justice

Academic Unit : School of Global and Public Law

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

International law seeks to order human affairs at the international level. It accordingly covers a vast field, extending to issues such as autonomy or otherwise of peoples and territories, the allocation of resources (land, maritime, air), the preservation of the environment, the regulation

of interstate transactions, the resolution of disputes and the maintenance of international peace and security. As the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs of the United Nations notes, international law has become not only an important but an integral part of both the international and the domestic legal orders. The centrality of international law to our everyday lives and, in particular, to our practice as lawyers, cannot now be overstated. This course aims to provide a contextual introduction to the central tenets of public international law through the examination of core topics and contemporary issues in the international legal system.

Main Topics

- Historical and philosophical underpinnings of international law
- Structure of international legal system
- Sources of international law
- The law of treaties
- International personality, statehood and recognition
- Jurisdiction of States and jurisdictional immunities
- Title to territory
- Responsibility of States for violations of international law

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : have a sound understanding of the development, scope, principles, and main rules of the specialised area of public international law (PLOs 1a & 1b)
CLO2 : be able to communicate effectively, in speaking and in writing, on core issues of public international law (PLOs 3a, 3b & 4)
CLO3 : understand the process by which principles and rules of international law continue to develop and governments and various institutions play in the implementation and enforcement of public international law (PLOs 1a & 1b)
CLO4 : be able to evaluate the impact of the rules and principles of international law on the conduct of governments and other actors in the international and domestic arena(PLOs 2a, 2b, 3a & 3b)
CLO5 : engage in independent, enquiry-based learning with a high degree of personal autonomy, in particular by preparing a substantial independent research essay on a specific topic of international law (PLO 4).

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : have a sound understanding of the development, scope, principles, and main rules of the specialised area of public international law (PLOs 1a & 1b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class Participation
CLO2 : be able to communicate effectively, in speaking and in writing, on core issues of public international law (PLOs 3a, 3b & 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid-term Assignment• Class Participation
CLO3 : understand the process by which principles and rules of international law continue to develop and governments and various institutions play in the implementation and enforcement of public international law (PLOs 1a & 1b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid-term Assignment• Class Participation
CLO4 : be able to evaluate the impact of the rules and principles of international law on the conduct of governments and other actors in the international and domestic arena(PLOs 2a, 2b, 3a & 3b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exam (take-home)• Mid-term Assignment• Class Participation
CLO5 : engage in independent, enquiry-based learning with a high degree of personal autonomy, in particular by preparing a substantial independent research essay on a specific topic of international law (PLO 4).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exam (take-home)

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | AV should work in the classroom for projection and online materials

Learning and Teaching in this course

The UNSW Faculty of Law's philosophy of teaching is based on the premise that students learn most effectively when they are thoroughly engaged in the learning process and are supported within their learning environment to take up challenges offered to them. Strong emphasis will be placed on student preparation and participation at all times. The class will be fairly informal, and much learning will take place in a discussion format, with class participation encouraged.

The basic approach taken in the subject is that the teacher leads class discussion of assigned materials following a 1 hour lecture. Students will have opportunities for applying what they are learning, and developing co-operative skills through problem solving of hypothetical scenarios and responding to the seminar questions. All students will be asked to contribute their own insights gained from reading, practice, discussion, media watching or the study of other disciplines. In some classes students may be asked to present material.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Class Participation Assessment Format: Individual	15%	
Mid-term Assignment Assessment Format: Individual	25%	Due Date: 28/06/2024 04:00 PM
Exam (take-home) Assessment Format: Individual	60%	

Assessment Details

Class Participation

Assessment Overview

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online and the use of rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : have a sound understanding of the development, scope, principles, and main rules of the specialised area of public international law (PLOs 1a & 1b)
- CLO2 : be able to communicate effectively, in speaking and in writing, on core issues of public

international law (PLOs 3a, 3b & 4)

- CLO3 : understand the process by which principles and rules of international law continue to develop and governments and various institutions play in the implementation and enforcement of public international law (PLOs 1a & 1b)
- CLO4 : be able to evaluate the impact of the rules and principles of international law on the conduct of governments and other actors in the international and domestic arena(PLOs 2a, 2b, 3a & 3b)

Detailed Assessment Description

Class participation marks are designed to encourage preparation for class, to encourage students to learn, think, analyse, reflect and evaluate legal material prior to covering that content in class, and to develop the capacity to put oral arguments and to think clearly. It is believed that since students will necessarily put much effort into class preparation, it is fair that they receive some reward for their work.

Class participation will therefore include demonstrated preparation for class. A premium will be placed on student preparation and participation at all times. The criteria for assessing class participation will therefore be: (a) demonstrated preparation for class (i.e., extent to which you have read the required texts and other sources necessary to understand the topic); (b) willingness and ability to contribute to class discussions and to ask and respond to questions from the lecturer, and (c) respect for fellow class members (e.g., non-domination of discussion; allowance for and engagement with others' contributions).

I will generally encourage a wide range of participation in class. While I will often ask for volunteers, I will also at times call on students who have not volunteered. If there is a chance your name will come up on a given day and you will not be in class or are unprepared due to unusual circumstances, you should notify me as soon as possible but before class, and make arrangements to participate another day.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Mid-term Assignment

Assessment Overview

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online and the use of rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : be able to communicate effectively, in speaking and in writing, on core issues of public international law (PLOs 3a, 3b & 4)
- CLO3 : understand the process by which principles and rules of international law continue to

- develop and governments and various institutions play in the implementation and enforcement of public international law (PLOs 1a & 1b)
- CLO4 : be able to evaluate the impact of the rules and principles of international law on the conduct of governments and other actors in the international and domestic arena(PLOs 2a, 2b, 3a & 3b)

Detailed Assessment Description

The assignment is designed to allow students to demonstrate the ability to formulate their own reasoned opinions about core problems addressed in the course. Assessment will be based, *inter alia*, on the quality and originality of the argument as well as the demonstrated knowledge of the relevant case-law and legal writing in the field. Completion of an assignment is designed to assist students to develop the capacity to think clearly and to present written arguments and engage in critical analysis of issues of international law.

The maximum word limit for the assignment will be 2,000 words (including footnotes). Any portion of an assignment exceeding this length will not be read or assessed. Assignments must be submitted via Turnitin on Moodle.

Assessment Length

2000 words

Assessment information

Please see further information regarding the final assessment on the Moodle site.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Exam (take-home)

Assessment Overview

Feedback includes formative feedback, peer feedback in class, online and the use of rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO4 : be able to evaluate the impact of the rules and principles of international law on the conduct of governments and other actors in the international and domestic arena(PLOs 2a, 2b, 3a & 3b)
- CLO5 : engage in independent, enquiry-based learning with a high degree of personal autonomy, in particular by preparing a substantial independent research essay on a specific topic of international law (PLO 4).

Detailed Assessment Description

All students will also be required to complete a final take home exam worth 60% of the final mark. The dates for distribution and submission are TBD.

The take home exam is designed to allow students to demonstrate their ability to formulate their own reasoned opinions about core problems addressed in the course. Assessment will be based, *inter alia*, on the quality and originality of the answers, as well as the demonstrated knowledge of the relevant case-law and legal writing in the field. Completion of the exam is designed to assist students to demonstrate core disciplinary knowledge as well as the capacity to think clearly and to present written arguments and engage in scholarly critical analysis of international legal problems.

Assignments must be submitted via Turnitin on Moodle before the designated time on the due date. Save for exceptional circumstances, no extensions will be granted. Any work submitted late will not be marked. Any request for an extension must be submitted to the lecturer in advance of the due date and supporting documentation of incapacity or misadventure provided.

We believe that examinations conducted under sensible conditions have an important part to play in achieving the educational objectives of the course. Students must prepare for examinations, and must make an attempt to understand the relationship between the various principles covered in this course. Furthermore, it allows us to ensure that students have grasped and are able to apply in an integrated fashion all of the principles taught in Issues in International Law to ensure that students have a sufficiently solid foundation for further study of specialised areas of international law. This is particularly important in a subject in which most of the principles are very closely interrelated.

Assessment Length

3000 words

Assessment information

Please see further information regarding the final assessment on the Moodle site.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

General Assessment Information

Class Participation: 15%

Mid-term Assignment: 25%

Exam (take-home): 60%

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

50% of the total marks allocated.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Seminar	Historical and philosophical underpinnings of international law
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Seminar	Structure of the international legal system
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Other	THERE WILL BE NO CLASS THIS WEEK.
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Seminar	Sources of International Law
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Seminar	Statehood, Self-Determination, and Recognition
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Other	FLEXIBILITY WEEK: THERE WILL BE NO CLASS
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Seminar	Jurisdiction
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Seminar	Dispute Resolution
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Seminar	Individual Rights (Human Rights)
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Seminar	International Law and the Use of Force (International Humanitarian Law)

Attendance Requirements

Please see information about attendance requirements in **Law & Justice Assessment Procedure and Student Information** located in the Other Useful Information tab in the Academic Information field.

Please be advised there will be no classes on public holidays. If your class falls on a public holiday, alternative arrangements will be made by the course convenor to make up the missed class.

General Schedule Information

This class will take place on Thursdays 15:00-18:00 (Randwick R14 201 (R-R14-201)) During T2 weeks: 1-2,4-5,7-10 commencing 30 May 2024.

Further information is available on the Moodle site.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

James Crawford, *Brownlie's Principles of Public International Law* (Oxford University Press, 9th Edition)

Additional resources will be made available in the course Moodle site as the term progresses.

Recommended Resources

Malcolm N Shaw, *International Law* (2021, 9th Edition, Cambridge University Press)

Additional Costs

Not applicable

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is very important to continual course improvement. This is demonstrated within the School of Global and Public Law by the implementation of the UNSW MyExperience Process which allows students to evaluate their learning experiences in an anonymous way. Your input into this quality enhancement process through completing these surveys is extremely valuable in assisting convenors to meet the needs of its students and to provide an effective and enriching learning experience. The results of all surveys are carefully considered and do lead to action to enhance the quality or course content and delivery.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
	Brian Barbour					No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the [UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website](#).

UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy

It is essential that all students undertaking this course read and abide by the [UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information](#). This document includes information on Class Attendance, Late Work, Word Limits, Marking, Special Consideration, Workload, and Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism. More information can also be found at [Assessment & Exam Information](#).

Information regarding Course Outlines are subject to change and students are advised to check updates. If there is a discrepancy between the information posted here and the handbook or the UNSW Law & Justice website, please contact [Student Services via The Nucleus Hub](#) for advice. UNSW Law & Justice reserves the right to discontinue or vary such courses or staff allocations at any time. If your course is not here, please visit [Handbook](#) for information.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Student Code](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Student Code, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Before submitting assessment items all students must read and abide by the [UNSW Law &](#)

Special consideration

Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable. To apply, and for further information, see Special Consideration on the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

Feedback

UNSW Law & Justice appreciates the need for students to have feedback on their progress prior to the last date for withdrawal without failure. All courses will therefore provide feedback to students prior to this date, as well as throughout the course. However, students should note that feedback does not take the form only of formal grades and written comments on written assessments. Rather, formative feedback, which helps students to self-assess, to identify misunderstandings, and to identify areas requiring further work, will occur during class and possibly online. For example, where a teacher asks the class a question, all students should think about how they might answer. Even though not all students will necessarily be able to respond orally, everyone can reflect on their tentative answer in light of the teacher's response and subsequent class discussion. If you are struggling to understand what is being asked in class, or if your tentative answers prove incorrect and subsequent discussion does not clear things up, then you should continue to ask questions (of yourself, your peers or your teacher). Similarly, you can get a sense of your ability in a course through peer feedback during group work, your teacher's responses to your in-class contributions, and your own response to in-class problems and examples (whether or not you are called on to relay your answer to the class) and also your online activities and responses by others to those activities. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the specific feedback used in this course.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

- Student support: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Equitable Learning Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au>

Course improvement

Student feedback is very important to continual course improvement. This is demonstrated within the Faculty of Law & Justice by the implementation of the UNSW online student survey myExperience, which allows students to evaluate their learning experiences in an anonymous way. myExperience survey reports are produced from each survey. They are released to staff after all student assessment results are finalised and released to students. Course convenors will use the feedback to make ongoing improvements to the course. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the actions taken in response to evaluation feedback in Student Survey.

School Contact Information

Please contact [Nucleus Student Hub](#) for all enquiries. The Nucleus acts as a central communications hub for UNSW and will distribute your enquiry to the best person to respond.