

I. SUBJECT DETAILS

Data on the subject	
Subject	Public International Law
Degree	Law Degree
Year	2 nd year
Semester	1 st semester / 2 nd semester
ECTS Credits	6
Department	Public Law
Area	Public International Law and International Relations
Professor/s	Víctor C. Pascual Planchuelo, Ph.D
Teaching staff	
Professor	Víctor C. Pascual Planchuelo, Ph.D
Group	International Students
E-mail	vcpascual@comillas.edu
Office	Fourth floor Faculty's Room
Contribution of the course to the professional profile	
Public International Law course is part of the subjects taught in the area of Public International Law and International Relations. The main objective of the course is to help the student understand the basic concepts of International law and its importance in the international society nowadays. At the end of the course, the student will be able to use a practical as well as a scientific approach to identify the current issues concerning the international legal framework ruling the relations between the actors of the international society.	

II. SKILLS AND COMPETENCES

General Competences

Instrumental

To improve oral and written communication skills in English.

The acquisition of this competence includes the ability to work in English to the extent that such skill is for professional exercise

Learning outcomes.

1. Comprehensive reading in English.
2. Written skills, including grammar and syntax.
3. Oral expression and the use of the suitable legal vocabulary in oral presentations.

Specific Competences

Conceptual (Knowledge)

To learn and understand basic legal international concepts

Learning outcomes:

1. To understand the international legal framework as a legal system.
2. To learn and to analyse the main sources and the practical implementation of Public International Law
3. To identify the main subjects of International Law and its competences.
4. To study the international responsibility of the subjects of International Law and the system for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Procedural (Do)

To identify the role of the International Legal Framework as an instrument for social relations.

The student must understand the relevance of this legal framework in the international society (nowadays but also in the History of international relations) and which are the principles that underpin the relations between the international actors.

To identify the legal sources and to apply them to specific situations

The student must know the different sources of International Law and be able to apply them correctly to specific situations in order to extract the legal consequences of each case.

Professional (Know-how)

Discursive and argumentative skill.

Learning outcomes.

1. Writing or oral skills: fluent, clear and organized structuring of ideas; command of specific vocabulary.

III. CONTENT / SYLLABUS

UNIT 1: INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Lesson 1.1. The evolution of the International Society
 Lesson 1.2. Presentation of its subjects, sources and guarantees of compliance
 Lesson 1.3. The fundamental interests of the international community and their protection: The structural principles of International Contemporary Law

UNIT 2: SUBJECTS OF PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW

Lesson 2.1. Introduction to international legal personality
 Lesson 2.2. The State
 Lesson 2.3. The International Organizations
 Lesson 2.4. The peoples as subjects of Public International Law
 Lesson 2.5. The individual
 Lesson 2.6. Other potential subjects of International Law

UNIT 3: THE SYSTEM OF LEGAL SOURCES

Lesson 3.1. Article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice.
 Lesson 3.2. International custom.
 Lesson 3.3. International Treaty.
 Lesson 3.4. Unilateral acts of States and International Organizations acts
 Lesson 3.5. Interaction among sources and Soft Law

UNIT 4: COMPETENCES OF THE STATES

Lesson 4.1. Types of competences
Lesson 4.2. Acquisition of sovereignty
Lesson 4.3. Scope and limits of territorial competences
Lesson 4.4. The land
Lesson 4.5. The air
Lesson 4.6. The sea

UNIT 5: INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Lesson 5.1. Peaceful settlement of disputes
The international wrongful act
Lesson 5.2. International responsibility. The international wrongful act and its elements
Lesson 5.3. Circumstances precluding wrongfulness
Lesson 5.4. Reparation of damage

IV. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Recommended readings

International Law, Malcolm N. Shaw, Cambridge University Press, 8th edition, 2017

International Law, Jan Klabbers, 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press, 2017

International Law. A Critical Introduction, Wade Mansell/Karen Openshaw, 2nd edition, Hart Publishing, 2019

Sistema de Derecho Internacional Público, Andrés Sáenz de Santamaría, P., Civitas Thomson Reuters, Cizur Menor, (última edición).

Instituciones de Derecho Internacional Público, Díez de Velasco, M. Tecnos. Madrid, (última edición).

Curso de Derecho Internacional Público y Organizaciones Internacionales, Pastor Ridruejo, J.A., Tecnos. Madrid, (última edición).

The professor will give instructions with regard to further required and recommended readings during the course.

V. METHODOLOGY

Classroom activities or face-to-face methodology

- Lectures will provide an introduction and an overview of the topic studied.
- Oral presentation of case studies and other activities by the students. Corrections provided by the professor as well as guidance and comments.
- Writing essays on specific issues related to International Law.
- The active participation of the students and in-depth discussions are expected. Therefore, the previous study of the topic analyzed in class is also expected.

Please note that the professor can decide to evaluate the knowledge of the students through *one minute paper* tests without prior notice.

Independent study methodology

- The students must read and study the required reading before each lecture and shall be prepared to discuss the topic in class.
- Resolution of case studies
- Writing essays or reports on specific issues related to International Law.
- Preparation of an oral presentation

VI. STUDENT WORKING HOURS

STUDENT WORKING HOURS			
Activities	Number of classroom hours	Number of non-classroom hours	Total
Lectures	54	0	54
Case-studies	10	0	10
Practical classes	10	0	10
Self-study and reading	0	54	54
Preparation of specific research project	0	22	22
ECTS Credits: 6	74	76	150

VII. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation criteria	General and specific competences	Evaluation percentage
Research project	• Written and oral expression in English • Structure of the solution to the case-study, precision and accuracy of the reasoning • Knowledge of the notions of International Law applicable to the case • Capacity to apply the correct legal sources and to identify the specific requirements of each of them • Correct use of case law • Ability to build, set out and defend a legal reasoning	30%
Assessment: Exam	• Written language • Knowledge of the theoretical concepts • Ability to apply correctly the theory and the sources of International Law to a specific situation • Quality of the reasoning and rigor/strength/accuracy/completeness of the arguments used • Ability to reach a legal conclusion and to extract the legal consequences of a specific situation	70%



EVALUATION

Ordinary session:

- **Exam (70%):** the exam will consist on a situation the student has to analyze applying the theoretical knowledge acquired as well as the relevant sources of International.
- Students are required to **pass the exam** (at least, 5/10) to allow the professor to take into account the marks obtained in **other activities (30%)**.

Second session:

The exam will represent 100% of the overall grade if the student did not pass the research project in the first session. If the student solely failed the exam of the ordinary session, the professor will apply the most favorable option: a) the exam will be worth 100% of the final grade in the second session; or, b) the exam will be worth 70% of the overall grade and the research project 30%.