

Queen Mary Summer School

SUM501P: Introduction to International Law

School of Law

Course outline

Level: 5

Credits: 15 (Queen Mary credits)

Course leader: Dr Thomas MacManus

Assessment: 2,500-word essay (80%) and group presentation (20%)

Course description:

This course offers a broad overview of public international law and its various areas, its relations to politics, and current challenges of the international legal system. The focus will be on the theoretical background of international law as well as its practical implications in our globalised world. It will thus provide a critical, analytical, and stimulating perspective on the nature and scope of international law for every scholar interested in this field.

Teaching in lectures and seminars will be supplemented with a number of structured study sessions, such as a supervised library skills workshop, and assessment preparation for the coursework.

Learning outcomes:

By attending this course, you are expected to:

- understand and explain the doctrinal basics of international law
- acquire a substantial body of new knowledge in the various areas of public international law
- apply this theoretical knowledge to practical cases in order to resolve legal problems
- identify the key problems in international law and how these problems are interrelated.

Thereby this course will enable you to:

- think critically and independently, and to express your views sensitively and effectively
- explain and argue clearly and concisely and to develop effective spoken and written English by defending your arguments both in-class and in their coursework (clarity of communication)
- undertake independent research, seeking out relevant sources and research materials
- develop good judgement through concrete problem-solving; develop curiosity for contemporary legal problems that require a practical resolution; respect the opinions of others; and develop transferable key skills that you will be able to use in your future career (rounded intellectual development)

Approximate cost:

All reading material is provided digitally so you are not required to purchase any books.

Assessments:

The course assessments are not compulsory, however, if you wish to transfer credit for this course to your home university it is essential to complete the assignments.

2,500-word essay (80%)

In-class group presentation (20%)

Preparation:

Before you arrive on campus, it is advised that you familiarise yourself with the course content before it begins. You will be given instructions for accessing our Virtual Learning Environment (QMplus) before you arrive on campus.

Teaching:

The course is taught in two two-hour sessions per day (10.00 - 12.00 and 13.00 - 15.00), held Monday to Thursday each week.

Course content:

Session 1	Introduction / The History and Nature of International Law
Session 2	The Sources of International Law / The Relationship between International and National Law
Session 3	Subjects of International Law, Statehood and Recognition / Field trip
Session 4	International Organisations / Mooting and oral presentations
Session 5	International Humans Rights Law I / Field trip
Session 6	International Human Rights Law II / Mooting and oral presentations
Session 7	International Criminal Courts / Crimes Against Humanity I
Session 8	Crimes Against Humanity II / Use of Force
Session 9	War Crimes / Field Trip
Session 10	UN Security Council / Film
Session 11	The Future of International Law / Field trip

Please note that the information provided may be subject to change.

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