

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Professor: **Tadeusz KOLASINSKI**

Session: **July 2025**

Language of instruction: **English**

Number of hours of class: **10h**



Objective of the Course

This course invites students to explore the foundational concepts of international law and their application to contemporary global conflicts. Students will be introduced to the sources of international law, the criteria for establishing state responsibility, and explore the roles of key institutions in dispute resolution.

Students will be invited to critically reflect on legal theory and examine landmark cases adjudicated by international courts and tribunals. The course will also engage with major issues of global politics, encouraging students to analyze how international law can provide frameworks for addressing contemporary challenges.



Summary

This elective course provides a foundational introduction to international law, focusing on its structure, sources, and the main institutions responsible for dispute resolution. Students will explore how international law is created, interpreted, and applied in the contemporary world. Through hands-on activities (simulation exercises and mini-moot courts), students will learn to construct and use legal arguments.



Organization of the course

Session I: Introduction to Theory and Sources of International Law.

This elective course begins with a general introduction to international law, exploring its evolution and various theoretical approaches. The session will then examine the sources of international law and how they function in practice.

Readings: Lowe, V. (2015) 'Where does international law come from?', *International Law: A Very Short Introduction*. [\[DOI\]](#)

Roberts, A., & Sivakumaran, S. (2018) 'The Theory and Reality of the Sources of International Law' in Evans, M. *International Law*, Oxford University Press [\[DOI\]](#)

Session II: Subjects of International Law and limits of their responsibility.

This session focuses on both state and non-state actors as subjects of international law. Students will discuss the concept of sovereignty and its significance in relation to immunity and responsibility under international law.

Readings: Crawford, J. (2019). 'Subjects of international law', *Brownlie's Principles of Public International Law*. [\[DOI\]](#)

D'Cunha, S., Ferraro T., Rodenhäuser T, (2022) "Hybrid Threats, Grey Zones, Competition, and Proxies: When Is It Actually War?" *Blog of the European Journal of International Law*, March 7 2022 [\[link\]](#)

Session III: Breaches of International Obligations and Venues to address them.

This session explores scenarios in which international obligations are breached, leading to disputes that require litigation and resolution. To illustrate these issues, the session will examine the Genocide Convention and recent case law from the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Readings: Merrills, J. and De Brabandere, E. (2022) 'International Dispute Settlement: Principles and Concepts', in *Merrills' International Dispute Settlement*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 1–37. [\[DOI\]](#)

Philippe Sands, (2024) 'Genocide and international law', *The British Academy 10-Minute Talks*, The British Academy [\[link\]](#); 10 minutes]

Nicaragua v. Germany, Order, International Court of Justice, April 30, 2024 [\[link\]](#)

Session IV: Global Challenges and Application of International Law.

Building on themes from the Masterclasses, such as inequality, climate change, human rights, and radicalization, this session will assess the effectiveness of the international legal framework in addressing global challenges and examine its limitations.

Readings: *Verein KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz and Others v. Switzerland*, Application No. 53600/20, Eur. Ct. H.R. (Grand Chamber), Judgment of April 9, 2024 [\[link\]](#) para. 412, 420, 423, 451, 456 + for context, skim through the press release [\[link\]](#)

Moyn, S. (2018) 'Introduction', in *Not Enough: Human Rights in an Unequal World*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, pp. 1-11. [\[link\]](#)

Optional :

Brucher, A.; De Spiegeleir, A. (2024), 'The European Court of Human Rights' April 9 Climate Rulings and the Future (Thereof)', *VerfBlog*, 2024/4/29 [\[DOI\]](#)

Moyn, S. (2018) 'Global Ethics from Equality to Subsistence', in *Not Enough: Human Rights in an Unequal World*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, pp. 146-172. [\[link\]](#)



Bibliography

A digital reading booklet shall be communicated to you at the start of class. Technical and/or optional readings shall be communicated to you via the Moodle/Google Drive course.



Requirements for validation

Students will be assessed on their participation in class throughout the programme (20% of the grade) and on an oral exam, the *Petit Oral* (80% of the grade).

The *Petit Oral* will take place on Thursday in the second week of the programme [TBC]. It will consist of a group presentation on an assigned topic. Q&A will follow the presentation.



Professor's Biography



Tadeusz KOLASIŃSKI holds a B.A. in Political Science and a Master's Degree in Law (cum laude) from Sciences Po. He has also studied as a visiting student at Columbia Law School, Sorbonne-Paris I, and the University of Edinburgh.

Having previously worked as lawyer in corporate and dispute resolution departments of international law firms in Paris and Warsaw, he is currently a Senior Academic Assistant at the College of Europe (Natolin) and a predoctoral researcher at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities (SWPS). Tadeusz's research focuses on intersections of EU and international law.