

## INTERNATIONAL LAW AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Professor: **Tadeusz KOLASINSKI**

Session: **July 2026**

Language of instruction: **English**

Number of hours of class: **12.5h**



### Objective of the Course

This course introduces students to the foundational concepts of international law and their relevance to contemporary global challenges.

The first part of the course will explore the core principles of international law, including its sources, key institutions, and mechanisms for establishing responsibility for internationally wrongful acts. In the second part, the course will focus on how international law can serve as a framework for understanding global challenges, including armed conflicts, climate change, and the fragmentation of the international order.

Throughout the course, students will engage with international law doctrine and examine selected landmark cases of international courts and tribunals. They will also be encouraged to participate actively in class debates, as well as in short advocacy and moot court exercises.



### 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, applied, and enforced in the contemporary world. Through hands-on activities (simulation exercises and mini-moot courts), students will learn to construct and use international legal argumentation.



## 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.

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

Optional reading: 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.

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

Weller, M. (2026) 'The US capture of President Nicolás Maduro – and attacks on Venezuela', *Chatham House* blogpost [\[link\]](#)

### **Session III:** Breaches of International Law

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).

Core readings:

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

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

Optional readings:

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

### **Session IV:** Enforcement of International Law and its limits

This session investigates how international law can be effectively enforced against actors who are found in breach of their obligations. It discusses the enforcement of judgements of courts and tribunals as well as sanctions and their effectiveness.

Readings:

IMF Podcasts (2026) *Nicholas Mulder on sanctions as a weapon* [[link](#); 16 minutes]

Council of Europe (2026) *Explanatory note – Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine*. Council of Europe [[link](#)]

d’Aspremont, J. (2026) ‘Le droit international ne se porte pas si mal’, *La Libre* [[link](#) - optional for French speakers]

**Session V: International Law and Global Challenges**

Building on themes from Masterclasses, such as inequalities, climate crisis or AI governance, this session will assess the effectiveness of the international legal framework in addressing global challenges and examine its limitations.

Core 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](#)]

Schaugg, L., Jones, N. and Qi, J. (2025) *Historic International Court of Justice Opinion Confirms States’ Climate Obligations*. International Institute for Sustainable Development [[link](#)]

Optional readings:

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) ‘Introduction’, in *Not Enough: Human Rights in an Unequal World*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, pp. 1-11. [see: shared drive]



**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 Program (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 Program. 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) in Warsaw. Tadeusz's research focuses on intersections of EU and international law.