

2020 SAF -

Introduction to Public International Law

Course Description:

As this course plan takes shape, questions concerning the proportional use of force, the legitimacy of terrorism in the name of self-determination, the role of civilians as human shields and the role of international organizations as peacemakers take on new significance as the Africa and the Middle East teeter on the brink of war. Now more than ever, the relevance of international law is tested and charged with additional meaning. Although Introduction to Public International Law is designed for students with no prior background in the subject, an interest in politics and a passion for international news are of paramount importance.

In order to empower students to engage in coherent discussions on contemporary issues at the cusp of international law and politics, the course begins with a general introduction to the fundamental principles of public international law and the structures of the international legal system. Subsequent lectures will focus on the primary sources of public international law and the interaction between international and municipal law before progressing forward to analyze fundamental areas of international law.

Lecture topics include:

- A Look Behind The Law and an Introduction to our Legal Learning Environment - What is international law? Is international law really law? The historical evolution of the international community and a first look at the politics behind the law will inform the opening lecture.
- The sources of international law and The Law of Treaties - Consider both the advantages and disadvantages of customary international law rules as compared to treaty-based rules. In addition, students will learn case briefing skills through exercises in class.
- The Relationship between International Law and Municipal Law
- Jurisdiction seminar subject - A compendium of International Judiciary Bodies

Students will gain an in-depth understanding of international legal frameworks through a series of lectures from one the premier legal experts in Amsterdam, get a unique opportunity to see how law intersects with culture through the lens of London's most exciting legal minds, and gain entry to the world's most renowned legal facilities. In addition, students will visit a law firm, do a case-study analysis with a Dutch think tank and have time to soak up the cultural attractions of both London and Amsterdam sites.