

International Law

Academic year 2020-2021

International Law in the 21st Century

DI131 - Autumn - 6 ECTS

Tuesday 14h15 - 16h00

Course Description

This is an advanced introduction to public international law, which aims at an enhanced understanding of its foundational concepts and methods through a discussion of current practices and leading case law. The course will cover traditional international law doctrines (such as subjects, law making, normative interactions, responsibility, enforcement and mechanisms to settle disputes and induce compliance) with an emphasis on contemporary pressures on each of them. Upon successful completion, students will acquire a solid background of the rules, techniques, and practices that shape the fundamental structure of international law and the dynamics of its evolution. They will also acquire the necessary skills to expand and sharpen their knowledge of international law in specific fields.

> PROFESSOR

[Paola Gaeta](#)

[Office hours](#)

> ASSISTANT

[Alfredo Crosato](#)

[Office hours](#)

Syllabus

[This is a provisional syllabus. The final one, which will include the compulsory readings of the course, will be distributed to the participants before the beginning of the course]

METHODOLOGY

The course consists of 13 weekly classes, taking the form of frontal lectures given by the Professor and in-class discussion on assigned case law. On the 14th class, which is the last of the course, students will sit the final exam. Students are invited to participate in the discussion with pertinent comments and questions. During the semester, the Teaching Assistant will hold tutorials during which students will be able to consolidate the knowledge acquired in class and to prepare for the assignments and the final exam. Students are welcome to contact the Professor and the Teaching Assistant via email to schedule meetings and discuss individual matters. However, because they are of interest for the whole class, questions regarding the substance of the course or exam modalities –if not addressed in class or during the tutorials –should only be posted on the dedicated section of the Moodle page of the course, so that they can be answered publicly by either the Professor or the Teaching Assistant to the benefit of all students.

Please note that when something is posted on the class forum students will receive a notification on their @graduatenstitute.ch email address. Students are therefore invited to make sure to regularly check that email address.

COURSE MATERIALS

The main reference text for the course is: Paola Gaeta, Jorge E. Viñuales, and Salvatore Zappalá, *Cassese's International Law*, Third Edition, Oxford University Press, 2020. Before each class, students are required to read all the assigned materials indicated in the final syllabus. Unless specific chapters, paragraphs or pages are indicated in the final syllabus, the materials have to be read in their entirety.

EXAM MODALITIES

Class participation counts for 25% of the final grade. To ensure class participation, during the semester students will be appointed as 'rapporteurs' on the material assigned for a given class and will be asked by the Professor and the Teaching Assistant to address specific issues or ask questions/make comments related to the assigned readings. Students will have also to hand in one legal memorandum, worth 25% of the final grade, related to one of the topics of the course. A final exam, consisting of an open book legal memorandum on a hypothetical case and worth 50% of the final grade will take place at the end of the course. The timing, requirements and modalities of all these assignments will be communicated in due course.

COURSE CONTENT

Classes 1-3: Subjects and actors of the international community

Classes 4-8: International law-making and normative Interactions

Classes 9-11: Responsibility for wrongful acts

Classes 12-13: Settlement of disputes and mechanisms to promote compliance and accountability

Class 14: Final exam