

5770 Contemporary Challenges in Public International Law
2024 - 2025

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Certificate / Master - 6 crédits

Printemps 2h

Mardis 16:15-18:00
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Description :

International current events raise a multitude of concerns that impact both States and individuals, highlighting significant challenges in the interpretation and application of public international law. Key questions arise, such as: Do minorities (e.g. Kurds, Catalans), have the right to establish their own States, i.e. do they possess the right to external self-determination? Under what circumstances may States lawfully resort to the use of force, either against other states or non-state actors? What are the powers of the UN Security Council, and what role do UN Peacekeeping forces play? In situations of armed conflicts - such as those in Ukraine, Gaza, Syria, Iraq, Yemen - what rules protect individuals and uphold a minimum standard of humanity, and what mechanisms exist to ensure these rules are respected? What legal frameworks govern the fight against terrorism? Are States obliged to open their borders to migrants fleeing war-torn regions? In exploring these questions, the course will not only cover the foundational elements of international law, but it will also delve into specific branches, like jus ad bellum, human rights law, international humanitarian law, refugee law, and international criminal law.

The course adopts a problem-based approach, using contemporary factual situations drawn from news articles, reports from international bodies, and other recent documents as the starting point for discussion. Legal analysis of these situations will follow, grounded in relevant jurisprudence and scholarly articles, to highlight current challenges and divergent views in the interpretation and application of international law. The objective of the course is to equip students with the legal and analytical tools necessary to critically assess contemporary issues from an international legal perspective.

This course is conducted entirely in English.