Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Course Syllabus

1. Course Information

- **Title:** International Law of the Sea
- **Code:** LLB47
- **ECTS:** 5
- **Hours per week:** 4
- **Academic Year:** 4th
- **Teaching Period:** Winter/Spring Semester
- **Mode of Delivery:** Face-to-Face
- **Language of Instruction/Assessment:** English
- **Course Type:** Elective

2. Course Description

The vast expanses of the oceans play a pivotal role in the strategic concerns of nations and the welfare of humanity. They function as crucial conduits for global trade, a shared repository of both living and non-living resources, and a potential arena for security threats and challenges. Encompassing 70% of the Earth's surface, these oceans facilitate around 90% of worldwide trade while contributing to the advancement of human communication, scientific inquiry, and industrial progress. The focal point of this course lies in the legal framework governing the oceans, spanning internal waters and ports, various maritime zones established through treaties and customary international law, the continental shelf, the marine environment, and marine resources. The course will commence by elucidating key historical milestones that have shaped the evolution of the

international law of the sea. Subsequently, students will be introduced to the existing legal framework regulating oceanic activities, exploring recognised maritime zones in international law and rules governing diverse uses of the oceans, such as navigation, shipping, fisheries, scientific research, marine conservation, exploration of non-living resources (including oil and gas), as well as deep-sea bed mining. Legal authorities employed during this course encompass a variety of sources, including treaties, judicial precedents, customary norms, and regulatory frameworks, which collectively contribute to the structure of legal systems worldwide. Among these, the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) stands as a cornerstone document, often likened to a constitutional framework for governing maritime affairs on a global scale. UNCLOS holds significant sway within the sphere of international relations, manifesting in numerous conflicts spanning regions as diverse as the South China Sea, the Caribbean, the Aegean Sea, and the Black Sea. Through an in-depth examination of UNCLOS, participants will explore intricate regulations concerning the delineation of maritime zones and boundaries, including those governing territorial seas, Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), and the continental shelf. Furthermore, attention will be directed towards the status of landlocked and geographically disadvantaged states, alongside an exploration of the functions and mandates of key international bodies such as the International Seabed Authority (ISA), the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). A comprehensive overview of topics to be addressed during the course will encompass the legal principles underpinning various maritime zones, covering aspects such as territorial seas, internal waters, baselines, bays, islands, and archipelagic states. Additionally, the course will scrutinise issues pertaining to the exercise of jurisdiction over foreign vessels, international straits, the contiguous zone, and the rights and obligations of coastal states. Other focal points include maritime delimitation, the rights of landlocked states, the governance of the high seas, and mechanisms for the resolution of disputes, including the role of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

3. Keywords

Law of the Sea, Legal Regulation of the Oceans, UNCLOS, Maritime Zones, Maritime Delimitation, Maritime Dispute Settlement

4. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Define and explain the core principles, concepts, and doctrinal structures governing tortious liability and unjust enrichment.** (*Remember – Knowledge and Understand)*
2. **Identify and distinguish key forms of civil liability and the conditions under which they arise in national and comparative legal systems.** *(Analyse – Analysis and Understand)*
3. **Apply general rules of tort and restitution to hypothetical or real-world legal scenarios involving personal injury, economic loss, or unjust enrichment.** *(Apply – Application and Understand)*
4. **Critically assess the normative foundations and policy rationales of tort and restitution, including debates on deterrence, corrective justice, and risk distribution.** *(Evaluate – Evaluation and Analyse)*
5. **Conduct structured legal research and communicate effectively on selected issues of civil liability, integrating doctrinal, comparative, and policy perspectives.** *(Evaluate – Evaluation and Create)*

5. General Skills to Be Acquired

- Apply knowledge in practice
- Retrieve, analyse, and synthesise data and information
- Adapt to new situations
- Make decisions
- Work in an international context
- Work in an interdisciplinary team
- Generate new research ideas
- Appreciate diversity and multiculturalism
- Respect the natural environment
- Be critical and self-critical
- Advance free, creative, and causative thinking

6. Course Content (Topics)

1. **The Origins and Sources of the Law of the Sea –** Tracing historical developments, conceptual foundations, and the emergence of UNCLOS as a comprehensive legal framework; sources of the international law of the sea.
2. **Internal Waters, Ports, Bays, Islands, and Baselines –** Analysing spaces under full sovereignty and the legal criteria for land formations and baselines under international law.
3. **Territorial Sea, International Straits, and Passage Regimes –** Examining the rights of coastal States and foreign vessels under the regimes of innocent passage and transit passage.
4. **Archipelagic Waters and the Contiguous Zone –** Investigating special regimes for archipelagic States and the functions of adjacent zones beyond territorial waters.
5. **Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf Regimes –** Understanding sovereign rights, coastal State obligations, and the legal distinctions between EEZ and continental shelf claims.
6. **Delimitation of Maritime Zones: Legal Principles –** Introducing the core treaty and customary principles guiding maritime boundary delimitation between States.
7. **Delimitation of Maritime Zones: Practice and Jurisprudence –** Exploring State practice, case law, and issues such as cooperative arrangements and sea-level rise.
8. **The High Seas and the International Seabed Area –** Addressing jurisdiction, the freedoms of the high seas, and the principle of the common heritage of mankind.
9. **Marine Scientific Research and Environmental Protection –** Examining regulatory frameworks for pollution control, scientific access, and the balance between sovereign interests and cooperation.
10. **Security and Safety at Sea: Piracy –** Analysing legal responses to maritime crime and the international instruments governing safety and rescue operations.
11. **Security and Safety at Sea: SAR/SOLAS –** Discussing the regime of the SAR/SOLAS Conventions.
12. **The Use of Force at Sea –** The interaction between the law on the use of force and the legal regime of the UNCLOS, with emphasis on the possibility of using force in maritime zones beyond the exclusive sphere of the coastal state's sovereignty.
13. **Dispute Settlement and the Role of ITLOS –** Studying the compulsory procedures under UNCLOS, the structure of ITLOS, and its contribution to maritime legal order.

7. Teaching Methods

- Lectures.
- Case law workshops.
- Student presentations and structured debate.
- Guided reading and legal reasoning exercises.

8. Assessment Methods

Method	Weight	Description
Final Written Exam	70%	Essay-type and case-based questions
Mid-Term Assignment/Presentation	20%	Individual or group-based
Participation and Engagement	10%	Constructive attendance, preparedness, contribution

Note: A minimum final exam score of 50% is required to pass.

9. A. Ethics

Students are reminded that all submitted work must comply with the University's academic integrity policy. Plagiarism or unauthorised collaboration will result in disciplinary measures.

B. Course Policies

- Attendance is strongly encouraged.
- All assignments must be submitted on time via the designated platform.
- Special accommodations will be made for students with documented learning or health needs in accordance with university policy.

10. Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- **Use in Teaching:** (e.g. digital slides, audiovisual aids, interactive tools like Mentimeter)
- **Use in Communication:** (e.g. E-learning platform, Zoom/Google Meet for office hours)
- **Digital Resources:** (e.g. online legal databases, podcasts, video lectures)

11. Bibliography

- Books/E-Books

Anderson, W., *The Law of the Sea in the Caribbean* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2022)

Anthrakefs, G., *The Right to Exploit Offshore Hydrocarbon in the Southeastern Mediterranean in the Light of Public International Law* (Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač, 2023)

Ascencio-Herrera, A., Nordquist, M. H. (eds), *The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Part XI Regime and the International Seabed Authority: A Twenty-Five Year Journey* (Leiden/Boston: Nijhoff, 2022)

Bosco, D., *The Poseidon Project: The Struggle to Govern the World's Oceans* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022)

Brito, W., Moreira, F. C., (eds), *Comentários à Convenção das Nações Unidas sobre Direito do Mar* (Coimbra: Almedina, 2022)

Caligiuri, A., Cataldi, G., and Ros, N. (eds.), *L'évolution Du Droit De La Mer: Réflexions À l'occasion du 20ème anniversaire de L'assidmer (2001-2021)* (Napoli: Editoriale Scientifica, 2023)

Carballo Piñeiro, L., Mejia, M. Q. (eds), *The Elgar Companion to the Law and Practice of the International Maritime Organization* (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2024)

Chandra, V., *The Law of the Sea and Maritime Boundary Disputes in Areas of Hydrocarbon Potential: A Review of Global Hot Spots (e-book)* (London: Routledge, 2024)

Churchill, R., Lowe, V., and Sander, A., *The Law of the Sea* (4th edition, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2022)

De Lucia, V., Oude Elferink, A., and Nguyen, L. N., *International Law and Marine Areas beyond National Jurisdiction: Reflections on Justice, Space, Knowledge and Power* (Leiden/Boston: Brill/Nijhoff, 2022)

Duan, W., *The International Legal Regime Relating to Marine Protected Areas in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction: Identifying and Addressing Gaps* (Leiden/Boston: Brill/Nijhoff, 2022).

Ehrle, A., *Gubernanz des staatsfreien Raums: eine Untersuchung zu strukturellen Veränderungen des Völkerrechts unter besonderer Berücksichtigung des Tiefseebergbauregimes* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2023)

Enyew, E. L., *Indigenous Peoples, Marine Space and Resources, and International Law: The Interaction between International Human Rights Law and the Law of the Sea (e-book)* (Abingdon/New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2024)

Evans, M. D., Lewis, R., *Islands, Law and Context: The Treatment of Islands in International Law* (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2023)

Fietta, S., Cleverly, R., *Practitioner's Guide to Maritime Boundary Delimitation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016)

Forteau, M., Thouvenin, J.-M. (eds), *Traité de droit international de la mer* (Paris: Pedone, 2017)

Friedman, S., *Global Governance and the International Law of the Sea: The Evolution and Practice of the Continental Shelf Regime (e-book)* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2025)

García-Revillo, M. G., *The Contentious and Advisory Jurisdiction of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea* (Leiden/Boston: Brill/Nijhoff, 2016)

Gavouneli, M., *Functional Jurisdiction in the Law of the Sea* (Leiden/Boston: Nijhoff, 2007)

Ioannides, N., *Maritime Claims and Boundary Delimitation: Tensions and Trends in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea* (Abington Oxon/New York: Routledge, 2021)

Jensen, Ø., *The Development of the Law of the Sea Convention: the Role of International Courts and Tribunals* (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2020)

Jiménez Pineda, E., *El Arbitraje Internacional y el Derecho del Mar* (Valencia: Tirant lo Blanch, 2022)

Jones, C. (ed.), *Governing Oceans: Policy Development, Implementation and Evaluation* (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2024)

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Kohoutek, K., *Inhalt und Grenzen der Freiheit zur Verlegung von Seekabeln* (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2023)

Krabbe, N., and Langlet, D. (eds.), *Marine Bioprospecting, Biodiversity and Novel Uses of Ocean Resources: New Approaches in International Law* (Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2024)

Kraska, J., and Yang, H. C. (eds.), *Peaceful Management of Maritime Disputes* (Abingdon/New York: Routledge, 2023)

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Ma, X., *The Spratly Islands and International Law: Legal Solutions to Coexistence and Cooperation in Disputed Areas* (Leiden/Boston: Nijhoff, 2022)

Martínez Vargas, J. R., Vega Barbosa, G., and Pulido Fernández, M. A., *Tratado de derecho del mar* (Valencia: Tirant lo Blanch, 2016)

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Yu, C., *Marine Scientific Research and the Regulation of Modern Ocean Data Collection Activities under UNCLOS* (Leiden/Boston: Nijhoff, 2022)

- Databases

Westlaw UK Academic	**https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/**
HeinOnline Academic Core and Kluwer Law International Journal Library	**https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/**
Beck-online PREMIUM	**https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/**
O.U.P Oxford Public International Law	**https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/**
O.U.P Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law	**https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/**
Dalloz.fr	**https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/**
JURIS Zusatzmodul Hochschulen, BGB Staudinger Online	**https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/**
Kluwer Law Online (30 journals)	**https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/**
IAReporter. Investment Arbitration Report	**https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/**
Cambridge Core (Law)	**https://www.cambridge.org/core/browse-subjects/law**

EBSCO	**https://research.ebsco.com/c/quc7ji/search/advanced/filters?autocorrect=y&isDashboardExpanded=true**
ProQuest Central	**https://www.proquest.com/central/topicpaths/AbiGlobal_business/0?accountid=8359#0**
Springer link	**https://link.springer.com/**
Taylor & Francis e-books	**https://www.taylorfrancis.com/search?subject=SCLW**
Taylor & Francis e-journals	**https://www.tandfonline.com/subjects/law**
The Making of Modern Law: Legal Treatises 1800-1926 (Gale)	**https://go.gale.com/ps/start.do?p=MOML&u=arist&cookieConsent=true&analyticsOptout=false&aty=ip**
Wiley online Library	**https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/action/showPublications?startPage=&ConceptID=85**