

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Course Syllabus

1. Course Information

- **Title:** Contract Law
- **Code:** LLB8
- **ECTS:** 6
- **Hours per week:** 4
- **Academic Year:** 1st
- **Teaching Period:** Spring Semester
- **Mode of Delivery:** Face-to-Face
- **Language of Instruction/Assessment:** English
- **Course Type:** Mandatory

2. Course Description

Public International Law is a multifaceted field with a rich history and a plethora of theoretical perspectives. This module provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the foundational principles, rules, and institutions of public international law. Throughout the course, students will embark on an exploration of the historical and theoretical underpinnings of public international law. They will delve into the complexities of statehood, examining various modes of international legal personality. Additionally, students will analyse the formation and application of international law through treaties, customs, and other sources. Key topics such as jurisdiction, the interplay between domestic and international law, and issues of immunity will be thoroughly examined. In response to the contemporary global

landscape, this module addresses pressing issues within public international law. Topics such as the peaceful settlement of disputes, the use of force between States, self-determination, and the role of international organisations are given particular emphasis. Furthermore, the module offers a broad overview of international law, including its creation, application, and enforcement mechanisms. While students will not be expected to memorise an exhaustive list of international legal rules, they will develop the analytical tools necessary for understanding and navigating the complexities of international law. Special attention is given to the distinctions between international and domestic law, highlighting the unique challenges and mechanisms within the international legal system. Ultimately, the goal of this course is to cultivate students' critical thinking and analytical skills, empowering them to think like international lawyers. A key facet of this course is fostering critical thinking and analytical skills, empowering students to view international law not only as a set of rules but as a complex system shaping the global political landscape. By the end of the module, students will not only have a nuanced understanding of public international law but will also be poised to navigate its multifaceted dimensions, appreciating its role in envisioning a world order aligned with the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

3. Keywords

International Law, World Order, States, International Organisations, Sources of International Law, United Nations

4. Learning Outcomes

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

1. **Explain** the role of international law in the contemporary global order, with particular emphasis on its function in promoting cooperation, stability, and the regulation of inter-state relations. (*Understanding*)
2. **Analyse** competing representations and normative narratives of international law advanced by states and international actors. (*Analysing*)
3. **Evaluate** the effectiveness and limitations of international legal frameworks in addressing current global challenges through applied case analysis. (*Evaluating*)
4. **Identify** the foundational principles of international law, including sovereignty, non-intervention, state responsibility, and peaceful dispute settlement. (*Remembering*)

5. **Discuss** the binding nature of international norms and the importance of compliance, even where such norms may conflict with perceived national interests. (*Understanding*)
6. **Recognise** the significance of peaceful dispute resolution mechanisms in international law and their contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. (*Understanding*)

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 Nature and Foundations of Public International Law** – Defining international law, exploring its historical evolution, and examining its legitimacy as a legal system distinct from domestic law.
2. **Subjects of International Law: The State and Beyond** – Analysing criteria for statehood, recognition, self-determination, and the legal personality of international organisations, while exploring the status of individuals, and non-state actors.

3. **Jurisdiction and Immunities in International Law** – Exploring territorial, personal, and universal jurisdiction, alongside state and official immunities and their impact on access to justice.
4. **Sources of International Law I: Article 38 of the ICJ Statute and Customary Law** – Examining the taxonomy of sources, with focus on the formation and identification of customary international law.
5. **Sources of International Law II: Contemporary Challenges in Customary Law** – Analysing *opinio juris*, persistent objector theory, and the evolving role of international organisations in the formation of custom.
6. **The Law of Treaties I: Formation, Interpretation, and Application** – Studying treaty-making processes under the Vienna Convention, including negotiation, adoption, reservations, and interpretation.
7. **The Law of Treaties II: Validity, Termination, and *Jus Cogens*** – Exploring the rules on treaty invalidity, revision, suspension, and termination, with emphasis on fundamental change of circumstances and peremptory norms.
8. **Relative Normativity and Other Sources of International Law** – Investigating general principles, unilateral declarations, judicial decisions, scholarly writings, and the concept of soft law.
9. **International and Domestic Law: Theories and Interaction** – Comparing monism and dualism, and analysing the incorporation and transformation of international norms in national legal systems.
10. **The United Nations: Structure, Functions, and Legal Personality** – Analysing the UN Charter as a foundational document of the international legal order, examining the organs and competences of the UN, and assessing its role in international peace, security, development, and norm creation.
11. **Peaceful Settlement of Disputes and the Use of Force** – Distinguishing between means of dispute settlement and analysing the legal regulation of the use of force under *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello*.
12. **State Responsibility for Internationally Wrongful Acts** – Understanding attribution, breach, defences, countermeasures, and forms of reparation under the law of international responsibility.

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

Abi-Saab, G., Keith, K., Marceau, G., and Marquet, C. (eds), *Evolutionary Interpretation and International Law* (Oxford/London: Hart, 2020)

Besson, S., d'Aspremont, J. (eds), *The Oxford Handbook on the Sources of International Law* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017)

Boyle, A., Chinkin, C., *The Making of International Law* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2007)

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Hathaway, O. A., Koh, H. H. (eds), *Foundations of International Law and Politics* (New York: Foundation Press, 2005)

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Hernández, G., *International Law* (e-book)(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2025)

Higgins, R., *Problems and Process: International Law and How We Use It* (Oxford/New York: Clarendon Press/Oxford University Press, 1994)

Johns, L., *Politics and International Law: Making, Breaking, and Upholding Global Rules*, (Cambridge/New York: Cambridge University Press, 2022)

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von Arnould, A., *Völkerrecht* (e-book) (5th edition, Heidelberg, C.F. Müller, 2023)

Weiler, J., Nissel, A. T., *International Law: Critical Concepts in Law*, vols 1-6 (London: Routledge, 2011)

Wolfrum, R. (ed.), *Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law*, vols 10 (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012)

- 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=SC LW
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

- **Additional E-resources**

[Armed Groups and International Law \(Blog\)](#)

[ASIL \(American Society of International Law\) Insights](#)

[Borderline Jurisprudence \(Podcast\)](#)

[British Institute of International and Comparative Law Blog](#)

[Cambridge International Law Journal Blog](#)

[Centre for International Law \(National University of Singapore\) Dialogues \(Blog\)](#)
[Critical Legal Thinking \(Blog\)](#)
[EJIL: Talk! – Blog of the European Journal of International Law](#)
[EJIL: The Podcast!](#)
[ESIL \(European Society of International Law\) Reflections](#)
[Fresh Squeezed! Podcast \(Podcast series of the Opinio Juris Blog\)](#)
[International Committee of the Red Cross Library](#)
[International Court of Justice \(ICJ\)](#)
[International Law behind the Headlines \(ASIL Podcast\)](#)
[International Law Blog](#)
[International Law Commission \(ILC\)](#)
[International Law Observer](#)
[International Law Talk \(Podcast\)](#)
[Jus Cogens: The International Law Podcast](#)
[Jus Mundi – Search Engine for International Law and Arbitration](#)
[Just Security \(Blog\)](#)
[Lauterpacht Centre for International Law Blog](#)
[Lauterpacht Centre of International Law – International Law Seminar Series](#)
[Opinio Juris \(Blog\)](#)
[Oxford Bibliographies in International Law](#)
[Permanent Court of Arbitration \(PCA\)](#)
[Public International Law Part III \(University of Oxford International Law Podcasts\)](#)
[Questions of International Law](#)
[TWAIL Review](#)
[UN Audiovisual Library of International Law](#)
[United Nations](#)
[United Nations Digital Library](#)
[United Nations Treaty Series Online](#)
[UN Juridical Yearbook](#)
[UN Reports of International Arbitral Awards](#)
[Völkerrechtsblog](#)
[WorldCourts \(Free-access Database of International Jurisprudence\)](#)