

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2018

PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW PROGRAM

Law 540 – Introduction to Public International Law (3 credits) **This course is currently undergoing the course approval process and the course description, course number, and instructors may change.*

Instructors: Nicolas Lamp, Alison Mitchell

This course will provide an introduction to international law for students in both the Public International Law and the International Business Law programs. We will discuss the role of states as the primary authors and subjects of international legal norms and obligations; the application of international law by international and national decision-makers; and the status and increasing significance of non-state actors such as intergovernmental organizations (notably the United Nations), non-governmental organizations, multinational corporations, subunits in federal states (particularly Canadian provinces), peoples, and individuals in the international legal system. In addition, the course will provide coverage of substantive law in various areas, including state jurisdiction over territory and persons, dispute settlement, state responsibility, the law on the use of force, the law of the sea, and sovereign and diplomatic immunities. Where appropriate, special attention will be paid to Canadian practice and its conformity with international law.

Law 665 – International Protection of Human Rights and Refugees (3 credits)

Instructors: Michael Schoiswohl, Hugh Adsett, Ardi Imseis

The course provides an introduction to the international law of human rights and to the more specialized protections applicable to refugees, as well as the interrelationship between these bodies of law. The aim of the course is to provide the students with a coherent framework for understanding the instruments and mechanisms through which international law protects the fundamental rights of every human being as well as those of particularly vulnerable groups, such as refugees. In discussing the various facets of the international human rights and refugee protection regimes, emphasis will be given to their conceptual foundations, their enforcement at the international, regional and domestic level, as well as their practical implications and current challenges. Specific attention will be given to the institutional features of the human rights regime, including at the regional level (Organisation of American States), the reception of international human rights law into the Canadian legal system, and the relationship of human rights and refugee law to related areas, such as humanitarian law and international criminal law.

Law 664 – The Law of Armed Conflict and International Crimes (3 credits)

Instructors: Phillip Drew, Norman Farrell, Katrina Gustafson

This course introduces students to the law governing the conduct of armed conflict and to the crimes for which individuals incur individual criminal responsibility under international law, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. The law of armed conflict, or international humanitarian law, is a set of rules which seeks to limit the effects of armed conflict. It protects persons who are not or are no longer participating in hostilities and restricts the means and methods of warfare that may be employed by parties to a conflict. International humanitarian law faces a number of challenges in contemporary armed conflicts, which differ significantly from the types of conflicts that were prevalent when this body of law was first developed. A recent approach to addressing certain violations of international humanitarian law has been the establishment of international criminal tribunals

and mixed international / domestic tribunals tasked with prosecuting individuals allegedly responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law and other serious international crimes. The first part of the course will examine the history, principles, operation and application of international humanitarian law. The second part of the course will focus on the development of the law applicable to individual criminal responsibility, immunity, substantive elements of crimes, and certain modes of liability under international criminal law.