



Queen's International Law Programs at the BISC Course Descriptions

Public International Law Program

1. Law 540 – “Public International Law” (3 credits)

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, the law on the use of force, the law of the sea, sanctions, jurisdictional immunities, and state responsibility. Special attention will be paid to Canadian practice and its conformity with international law.

2. 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.



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

Instructors: Phillip Drew, Norm Farrell, Katie 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.

International Business Law Program

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Instructors: Nicolas Lamp, Alison Mitchell

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2. Law 454 – “International Economic Law” (3 credits)

Instructors: Nicolas Lamp, Valerie Hughes, Nick Gallus

This course introduces students to the public international law governing international trade and investment. It provides an overview of the fields of activity of the World Trade Organization (WTO), with a focus on multilateral trade negotiations and dispute settlement. The course combines lectures with interactive exercises, including a simulation of a trade negotiation and a moot. It also introduces students to the different subjects of international trade law, including trade in goods, trade in services, and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights. The international investment law section of the course surveys some of the core obligations of international investment agreements, with a focus on the provisions of Chapter 11 of NAFTA.

3. Law 666 – “International Commercial Law” (3 credits)

Instructors: Joshua Karton, Matt Secomb

The course introduces students to the law governing international business transactions as well as the different forms of dispute resolution that are open to the parties in such transactions. The first part of the course focuses on the rules governing the international sale of goods and the financing of international business transactions. We will discuss the considerations that inform the parties' choices of the law that will govern their transactions, with a particular focus on the options provided by the United Nations Convention on the International Sale of Goods. The course also provides an overview of other forms of international transactions, such as bank finance transactions. The second part of the course introduces the students to different forms of dispute resolution, including mediation, international litigation, and arbitration, with a focus on commercial arbitration. Students will gain an understanding of the intersection of international law, national law, and private contract that comprises the governing regime for this important means for the resolution of international business disputes. Specific topics include the drafting and enforcement of arbitration agreements, the laws applicable to different aspects of the arbitration, the jurisdiction, composition and powers of the tribunal, confidentiality, interim measures, the conduct of the hearing, and the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards.