

Basic data for the course			
Academic unit:	Faculty of Law		
Course title:	The Law of Treaties		
Level:	Bachelor		
Course statue:	Elective		
Year:	VII		
Hours per week:	2+2		
ECTS:	5		
Time / location:			
Course lecturer:	Prof. Besfort Rrecaj		
Contac details:	<a href="mailto:besfort.rrecaj@uni-pr.edu">besfort.rrecaj@uni-pr.edu</a>		
<b>Course description:</b>			
	<p>The Law of Treaties is a set of international principles and rules regulating the conclusion procedure of treaties, as well as the issues of operation, amendments and modifications, termination, suspension and invalidity of treaties. For those involved in drafting, negotiation and conclusion of international treaties, a sound knowledge of the Law of Treaties is indispensable. Moreover, efficient implementation and application of international legal norms is impossible without knowing the essentials of the Law of Treaties.</p>		
<b>Purpose of the course:</b>			
	<p>The overall goal of this Course is to provide students with the fundamental theoretical and practical knowledge of the key issues of the Law of Treaties, as well as a comprehensive understanding of the provisions of the universal conventions as the sources of the Law of Treaties and to develop critical skills of analysis and interpretation of cases regarding contemporary practice.</p>		
<b>Expected results:</b>			
	<p>At the end of the course participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate profound understanding of the basic notions, sources, and principles of the Law of Treaties;</li> <li>• Distinguish different stages of the conclusion of a treaty and differentiate between termination and suspension of treaties;</li> <li>• Explain the concept of invalidity of treaties and identify its legal consequences;</li> <li>• Analyze and interpret treaty provisions using international judicial decisions and opinions in the area of the Law of Treaties;</li> <li>• Identify and apply the rules and procedures of International Law of Treaties to practical cases and find the relevant sources of law and build legal arguments;</li> <li>• Apply theoretical knowledge and practical skills to their professional activities in fields related to the Law of Treaties for example, preparation of a draft of a treaty, or participation in negotiations and international conferences on the elaboration and adoption of an international treaty.</li> </ul>		
Student workload (should correspond with learning objectives of the student)			
Activity	Hours	Days/weeks	Total

Lectures	2	15	30
Theoretical/Laboratory exercise	2	15	30
Practical work	/	/	
Consultation/contact with teacher	15 min	15	3,75
Field study	/	/	
Colloquiums/ seminars	2	1	2
Homework	2	5	10
Time for independent study (library or work)	2	5	10
Final exam preparation	10	3	30
Time for the final evaluation (test, quiz, final exam)	2	1	2
Projects, presentations, etc.	4	5	20
<b>Total</b>			<b>137.75</b>

<b>Teaching methodology:</b>	<p>Teaching methodology of this course encompasses the use of different interactive methods with the aim of thorough and contemporary analysis of main principles and norms of international law and their applicability in practice. Combination of theoretical and cases study methodology in interpretation of these norms and principles will be very careful so that students never lose sight of the fact that the course aims at transmitting basic knowledge to the students about international law, its origins, nature as well as basic concepts and institutions.</p> <p>Practical work shall focus on the leading cases of ICJ and other international and national tribunals, clarifying certain aspects of international law. This practical side, however, shall not delve upon in every detail leaving room for the students who express an interest in international law to opt for the modular scheme in their future studies.</p> <p>Alongside this approach, historical and comparative approach takes precedence as it is to the benefit of students to see historical overview of the development of the norms, principles and institutions of present international law. This is true as well as far as comparative side of the story is concerned: many institutions, norms and principles of international law as they stand today have their origins in domestic systems of Western societies.</p> <p>It is recommended that the teaching is done using interactive participation of students. Students are expected to have course syllabus in first week of semester which will enable them to become familiar with proceedings of the course and become more active in classes in discussing different topics.</p> <p>For lecturing purpose, different teaching auxiliary means may be used such as projector, white board, etc.</p>
<b>Student evaluation:</b>	<p>There shall be a final exam. This covers, unless otherwise specified, all course obligatory readings assigned. The finals cover 60 per cent of the total evaluation of the course performance.</p>

	<p>There shall be a midterm exam, which covers topics of the course discussed until midterm exam takes place. Midterm exam covers 30 per cent of the total evaluation for the course performance.</p> <p>The rest of 10 per cent is determined by class participation and its content.</p> <p>In other words, the above scheme for evaluation for this course looks as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Midterm exam: 30 per cent</b></li> <li>- <b>Final exam: 60 per cent</b></li> <li>- <b>Regular active class participation : 10 per cent</b></li> </ul> <p><u>Final result will be determined by the accumulated results achieved in two exams organized during the respective semester (midterm and final exams) and the regular active participation in the classes.</u></p> <p>As an addition to this method for evaluation, regular active class participation can increase for additional 10 per cent This is determined by the professor.</p> <p>Of equal evaluative value is another alternative path that students might chose apart from the regular active class participation. This path could mean the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Students can chose an oral presentation of a paper on an issue dealing with international law. This presentations should not go beyond 15 minutes; or</li> <li>(2) Students can chose a written presentation of a paper on an issue dealing with international law (see, Annex I regarding the list of possible topics from international law that students can chose among for their oral presentation / written paper.</li> <li>(3) Written papers should not be les then 10 pages but not more than 20 , <i>single-spaced</i>, font 12 <i>Times New Roman</i> (see Annex II regarding general rules/instructions on the style and method of writing).</li> </ol> <p>A student is considered to have passed successfully the course upon reaching a total amount of a minimum 55% of cumulative points in his/her evaluation activities.</p> <p>In the case of mid-term and final exams, it is recommended that the exam requires students to write an essay on a particular topic.</p> <p>Active participation in lectures and in-class discussion may draw up to 10% of student’s final evaluation.</p>
<b>Literature</b>	
<b>Basic literature:</b>	<p>Robert Kolb, <i>The Law of Treaties</i> (Edward Publishing, 2016). Also the Albanian version translated by Prof. Besfort Rrecaj available.</p> <p>The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969)</p>

	The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations (1986)
<b>Recommended:</b>	<p>Oliver Dorr, Kirsten Schamalenbach ed., Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties: A Commentary (Springer, 2018)</p> <p>Chang-fa Lo, Treaty Interpretation under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties: A New Round of Codification (Springer, 2017)</p> <p>The Paradigm of State Consent in the Law of Treaties: Challenges and Perspectives (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2017)</p> <p>International Law Commission webpage: <a href="http://legal.un.org/ilc/">http://legal.un.org/ilc/</a></p>
<b>Designed course proposal:</b>	
<b>Week</b>	<b>Lecture</b>
<i>Week one:</i>	Introduction to the course
<i>Week two:</i>	Sources of international law and treaties in international relations
<i>Week three:</i>	Concept of treaties
<i>Week four:</i>	Conclusion
<i>Week five:</i>	Reservation
<i>Week six:</i>	Validity
<i>Week seven:</i>	The status of third states
<i>Week eight:</i>	Mid-term exam
<i>Week nine:</i>	Interpretation
<i>Week ten:</i>	Implementation and conflict of treaties
<i>Week eleven:</i>	Modification

<b>Week twelve:</b>	Termination
<b>Week thirteen:</b>	Treaties and customary international law
<b>Week fourteen:</b>	Status of treaties in the Republic of Kosovo and comparative analyses with other states
<b>Week fifteen:</b>	FINAL EXAM

**Academic policies and code of conduct:**

***Define policies of the code of conduct in compliance with the UP Statute.***

- Students are expected to regularly attend lectures
- Student presence will be registered in participation lists where students will place their signature confirming their presence
- Active participation of students will be evaluated on counts of active participation through interaction with the teacher and other students, presentation of different topics and individual and groups work as they may be assigned.
- Students will have access to the syllabus on the first week of semester familiarizing them with the course and basic and recommended literature.
- Students are encouraged to raise different issues for discussion related to the objectives and purpose of the course
- Students are not allowed to raise issues which do not correspond to course syllabus.
- Breaks during lectures will be decided together with students to accommodate their needs.