

Module Title: Introduction to the International Legal System**Credit Points: 05 ECTS / 10 UK credits****Overview:**

This half module gives students an introduction into the basic concepts of international law. Students will become familiarized with the treaties on which international law is based, the rules of customary international law and a knowledge of the institutions which apply international law.

Aims (To provide students with):

- knowledge of the key terms in public and private international law
- an understanding of the manner in which treaties and international agreements are negotiated, formalized and ratified
- an insight into the key aspects of customary international law
- a knowledge of the main institutions impacting on international law

Module Content

- Introduction: Definition of Terms
 - Public International Law
 - Private International Law
 - Foreign Law & Comparative Law
- Introduction to International Law
 - Background Information
 - Legal Journal Indexes
 - Law Related Indexes
 - Definitions, Abbreviations & Acronyms
 - Information about International Organizations
- Treaties & Agreements
 - What are Treaties & International Agreement
 - Treaties & Agreements - The Process
 - Researching Treaties & Agreements
 - Locating the Text of the Treaty or Agreement
 - Status and Ratification Information
 - Background Information
- Customary International Law
 - Customary International Law: General Principles of Law & Other Source
 - Customary International Law: Research Guides & Background Information
 - State Practice: Research Guides & Background Information
 - Domestic Legislation Concerning a Country's International Obligations
 - Resolutions, Declarations, & Legislative Acts of Intergovernmental Organizations
 - IGO yearbooks
 - General Principles of Law Introduction
 - Judicial Decisions of International Tribunals
 - Court Decisions of Individual Countries Concerning International Obligations
- International Organisations
 - What are International Institutions?
 - Theories of International Institutions
 - The nature of International Institutions
 - The demand for International Institutions
 - International Institutions in world politics
 - International Law
 - The United Nations- security, peace, war, human rights
 - The Security Council
 - The General Assembly,
 - UN Human Rights organizations
 - Regional Human Rights Organisations – The European Convention, The African Charter, The Inter American system

- The International Court of Justice
- The World Court for Criminals
- Multilateral trade institutions: GATT and WTO
- Multilateral Financial Institutions – IMF and World Bank
- The European Union
- Other Regional Trade Institutions
- Dispute settlement institutions – WADA
- Exchange rate mechanisms – EMS/ECB
- European Monetary Integration
- Democratic deficit
- Globalization
- Non State Actors and NGO's

Indicative Reading

- Armstrong, D., Lloyd, L. & Redmond, J., 2004. International Organisations in World Politics 3rd ed., Palgrave
- Bowett, D.W., Klein, P. & Sands, P., 2001. Bowett's Law of International Institutions 5th ed., Sweet & Maxwell
- Gareis, S.B. & Varwick, J., 2005. The UN: An Introduction, Palgrave Macmillan
- Kennedy, P., 2006. The Parliament of Man: The UN and the Quest for World Government, Penguin
- LeRoy Bennett, A. & Oliver, J.K., 2001. International Organisations: Principles and Issues 7th ed., Prentice Hall
- Peterson, J. & Shackleton. M., 2006. The Institutions of the European Union, Oxford University Press
- Schermers, H.G. & Blokker, M.N., 2004. International Institutional Law: Unity within Diversity 4th ed., Hotei Publishing

Assessment methods

50% Exam

50% Assignment