

Module Title	PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW	Date of Approval
Module Code	6LA518	Pre-requisite None
Module Level	5/6	
Credit value	20	
Total Number of Learning Hours	200	
Key Words	International, Law, Public, Treaties, Diplomacy, Statehood, Jurisdiction	
Module Delivery Mode	Face to face	

Module Description

Classically, in the writings of such as Vattel in the 18th Century, the state is the main subject of international law. The contemporary state is threatened in various directions: ethnic conflict, international financial speculation, the drugs trade, terrorism, to name a few. The question arises therefore, is the classical conception on international law still valid given modern global realities. To this end the module explores and challenges the basic concepts of public international law – the state, treaty as a source of public international law, the role of custom, territorial and jurisdictional sovereignty, diplomatic law, non-intervention and a states right to self defence, against the practical concepts under which these have to now be applied.

Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

At Level 5

- Research and understand the historical roots, development and basic concepts of international law by comparing classical and modern legal texts and applying a knowledge of primary sources;
- Identify, argue and respond creatively to the problems of applying basic international law concepts to contemporary international society.

At Level 6

- Research, critique and evaluate the historical roots, development and basic concepts of international law by comparing classical and modern legal texts and applying a knowledge of primary sources;
- Identify, argue and respond critically, analytically and creatively to the problems of applying basic international law concepts to contemporary international society.

Module Content

- Is international law “true law”?
- Basic concepts and sources of public law – custom, treaty and others
- The pre-requisites of statehood and recognition
- Territorial jurisdiction and self-determination
- Introduction to specific areas of international law concern such as the sea, Antarctica, space *et al.*
- The law of diplomacy
- Prohibition of force *versus* a states right to self-defence
- Identification of contemporary issues within public international law

Module Learning and Teaching Methods

Students participate in weekly seminars of three hours duration. These will be divided into formal lectures, informal discussions, presentations, debates and group research. During seminars underlying themes and principles will be introduced to be explored in more depth through formative class activities, individual and group research culminating in a final piece of coursework. All students will contribute to an electronic learning resource for mutual benefit.

Seminars	36
Guided independent study	164
Total	200

Scheduled learning and teaching activities:	18%
Guided independent study:	82%
Placement/study abroad:	0%

Module Assessment Methods Coursework/Examination100%

At the mid point of the module students will be required to participate in group presentations, followed by a debate addressing the theoretical fundamentals of the subject area. Having explored the fundamentals students will then be required to pose a question within the remit of the module for writing up and submitting at the end of the module.

Reading list

Key Text

Dixon, M. *Textbook on International Law* 6th Edition (2007) Oxford University Press

Essential Texts

Shaw, M, *International Law* 5th Edition 2003 Cambridge University Press

Evans, M. D. *International Law* 2nd Edition 2006 Oxford University Press

Brownlie, I. *Principles of Public International Law* 7th Edition 2008 Oxford University Press

Kaczorowska, A. *Public International Law* 3rd Edition 2005 Routledge Cavendish

Journals and law reports

AJIL	American Journal of International Law
BYBIL	British Yearbook of International Law
CLR	Commonwealth Law Reports
ECR	European Court Reports
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ECLR	European Competition Law Reports
EJIL	European Journal of International Law
ELR	European Law Review
ICJ Rep	Reports of the International Court of Justice
ICLQ	International and Comparative Law Quarterly
ILM	International Legal Materials
ILR	International Law Reports
MLR	Modern Law Review
UNTS	United Nations Treaty Series

Internet resources

United Nations: www.un.org;

UN Treaty Collection: www.untreaty.un.org

Security Council: www.un.org/Docs/sc/

International Court of Justice: www.icj-cij.org/

American Society of International Law guide to electronic resources for international law:
www.asil.org/resource/Home.htm

Westlaw: www.westlaw.co.uk