



**RIGA
GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF
LAW**

Course Outline

Course number	RBE208				
Course title	International Humanitarian Law				
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 LV)				
Total hours	80				
Contact hours	32				
Independent studies	48				
Course level	Bachelor				
Prerequisites	Introduction to Public International Law				
Category	Mandatory		Restricted elective	x	Free elective

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Fin-Jasper Langmack	PhD	Lecturer

COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Fin-Jasper Langmack	PhD	Lecturer

COURSE ABSTRACT

The International Humanitarian Law course will embark on the discussion of the basic tenets of the law of armed conflict – concepts, principles and rules. The course will consist of lectures and practically oriented seminars during which the students will work on case solution and presentation of the results.

At the outset, the course will examine the definition, scope, historical development, sources, and critique of international humanitarian law. Students will get an insight into the relation between international humanitarian law and adjacent fields of law, such as the law on the use of armed force, human rights law, and international criminal law. Current armed conflicts will be assessed in light of the distinction between international armed conflict (IAC) and non-international armed conflict (NIAC) and the applicable regimes they entail. The course will then examine the main principles applicable during warfare (principle of humanity, military necessity,

principle of distinction, principle of proportionality, and prohibition to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering).

Further, the course will explore different groups of persons involved in situations of IAC and NIAC and regime of protection attributable to them. Through practical exercises students will learn to classify different subjects during armed conflicts and the relevant protection regimes. The course will finally examine different ways to enforce international humanitarian law, focusing on relevant actors such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and different regimes of responsibility of states, non-state actors, and individuals. Throughout the course, students will focus on certain topics of particular relevance, such as the classification of current conflicts, the protection of the environment in armed conflict, the prohibition of cluster munitions, and autonomous weapon systems.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Exam	35%
Oral Participation in Seminars and Lectures	15%
Practical Assignment: Presentation, Discussion, Moot Court or Advocacy Simulation	50%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance in all lectures and seminars is highly recommended. The final grade consists of a practical assignments. Students can choose between a group presentation, group discussion, a moot court, or advocacy simulation. This forms 50% of the final grade and is mandatory. The final exam forms 35% of the final grade. Students have the possibility to improve their grade through oral participation, which can count for up to 15% of the grade. All students are required to be present during all practical assignments (last four seminars in the schedule). As the practical assignments are part of the final grade, the presence in those three classes will be treated as a presence during an exam.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1.	Definition of international humanitarian law (IHL), situations and scope of application, history and sources of IHL, the relation of IHL (<i>jus in bello</i>) to other areas of public international law. Classification of conflicts (international, non-international, 'grey zone' cases).	6
2.	Classification of persons in both international and non-international armed conflicts and applicable law (combatants, civilians, civilians taking a direct part in hostilities, wounded and sick, medical personnel, prisoners of war).	4

3.	Conduct of hostilities – principles of international humanitarian law; the law of occupation	4
4.	Methods and Means of Warfare	4
5.	Implementation, enforcement, accountability and responsibility in IHL: state responsibility, responsibility of non-state actors, responsibility of international organizations, responsibility in multinational operations	6
6.	Practical work: group presentations	8