

Course Outline

Course number	RBB405				
Course title	Law of International Organisations				
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 LV CP)				
Total hours	80				
Lecture hours	16				
Seminar and other hours	16				
Course level	Bachelor				
Prerequisites	None				
Category	Mandatory	X	Restricted elective	Free elective	

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

No.	Name	Academic degree	Academic position
1	Dr. Marika Laizāne-Jurkāne	Doctor of Political Science (Dr.sc.pol.)	Visiting Docent

COURSE TEACHERS

No.	Name	Academic degree	Academic position
1	Dr. Marika Laizāne-Jurkāne marika.laizane@gmail.com	Doctor of Political Science (Dr.sc.pol.)	Visiting Docent
2	Ieva Miļūna ieva.miluna@rgsl.edu.lv	LL.M	Lecturer in International Law

COURSE ABSTRACT

The course focuses on comprehensive approach to theory and practice of international organisations in contemporary international relations. Different theoretical approaches, which are dealing with analysis of development and activities of international organisations, will be considered and applied. Within the course, various international organisations will be examined, considering their historical origins, roles and functions, as well as international and domestic political forces that impact their working and effectiveness. International organisations are subjects of international law. In this course, the most important legal and institutional issues of the law of international organisations will be studied: legal position of international organisations, issues of membership, institutional structures, decision-making and legal instruments, dispute settlement and responsibility. Activities of international organisations in political, economic, humanitarian, social and cultural spheres will be analysed. Within the course, activities of the international non-governmental organizations will be considered by paying attention to their role, potential and limitations in international relations. International organisations to be analysed range from the League of Nations to the United Nations, from the World Bank to the World Trade Organisation, from the ASEAN to OSCE and Council of Europe and many other regional organisations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course aims to explain the essence of the character of international organisations as subjects of international law and to distinguish them from the States as primary subjects of international law. The course aims to give students an understanding of the major theoretical, legal and empirical aspects of the role of international organisations in international politics, including their impact on the practice of international cooperation and conflict, the maintenance of international peace and security, the management of international economic relations, the promotion of international environmental standards and related matters of concern to international society.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course aims to give students an understanding of the major theoretical, legal and empirical aspects of the role of international organisations in international politics, including their impact on the practice of international cooperation and conflict, the maintenance of international peace and security, the management of international economic relations, the promotion of international environmental standards and related matters of concern to international society.

This course has the following main objectives:

Knowledge:

- Students understand legal nature of international organisations and the manner in which they carry out their mandate.
- Students acquire more specific knowledge about the global and regional organisations.
- Students understanding the history and the importance of international organisations.
- Students have revised the necessary theoretical knowledge for analysing of the role, functions and aims of the international organisations.
- Students understand legal position of international organisations.
- Students acquire more specific knowledge about validity of legal instruments and hierarchy between the Acts.

Skills:

- Students have improved skills in carrying out analysis of case-law and judicial findings.
- Students have improved argumentation and writing skills.
- Students have improved skills of analytical approach to international politics.
- Students have improved skills of applying theoretical knowledge about international organisations and their role in the international environment.
- Students will improve legal research skills.

Competencies:

- Students are able to analyse the founding documents of international organisations.
- Students are able to assess the role and functions of the international organisation in contemporary international environment.
- Students are able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of core theory and practice of international organisations, analyse the work of the international organisations by developing

their own argumentation, explain the main theoretical approaches and empirical issues in the study of international organisations.

- Students can explain the most important legal and institutional issues of the law of international organisation.
- Students can analyse and explain roles and functions of the international organisations and explain their impact nationally, regionally and globally.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Course paper (including presentation)	40%
Take-home written exam	60%

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Subject	Planned hours
1	Introduction to the course and literature International organisations: concepts from a perspective of international politics and historical origins	4
2	Legal position of International Organisations	2
3	International organisations: institutional structures, privileges and immunities and issues of membership	2
4	Decision-Making and Legal Instruments	2
5	International organisations: judicial review	2
6	International organisations: dispute settlement and responsibility	2
7	International regional organisations: Council of Europe and OSCE	6
8	The United Nations	6
9	International economic organisations: International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Trade Organisation	6