



Course Outline

Course number	RBE270				
Course title	Law of Treaties and State Responsibility				
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 CP)				
Total hours	30				
Lecture hours	15				
Seminar and other hours	15				
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>
Tjaco van den Hout	LLM w/ distinction (Leiden University)	Visiting Professor

COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Tjaco van den Hout	See above	Visiting Professor
Anastasija Kaplane	LLM w/ distinction (Riga Graduate School of Law)	Visiting Lecturer

COURSE ABSTRACT

This course combines two distinct branches of public international law: treaty law and the law on state responsibility for internationally wrongful acts. This academic year they will be taught in reverse order.

The first part of the course will therefore cover the doctrine of state responsibility, including the analysis of the ILC-developed Articles on the Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts as well as discussing concepts such as internationally wrongful act, attribution of the wrongful conduct, wrongfulness, etc.

The second part of the course will familiarize participants with the main concepts and elements of treaties covered in the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and explore how these play out in practice. This part of the course will also touch on other instruments, unilateral and multilateral, such as MOU's that are not legally binding but can be equally important in dealmaking between states.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge

- Knowledge on the evolution of Law on State Responsibility;
- Theoretical background on the Draft Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts;
- Understanding of the importance of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and of the concepts covered therein.
- Understanding how bilateral and multilateral treaties are made; distinguishing between sequential steps of adoption, consent to be bound (including ratification) and entry into force.
- Understanding the differences between a treaty and an MOU.

Competencies

- Understanding of the rationale behind the Law on State Responsibility and the reasoning of the ILC;
- Ability to determine the existence of an internationally wrongful act, applicability of the circumstances precluding wrongfulness and legal consequences of breach (invocation of responsibility in practice);
- Ability to identify a treaty (and the various factors impacting its validity) and, also, to distinguish it from an MOU;
- Ability to transform the acquired theoretical knowledge into practical skills, i.e. to perform the analysis of the case studies;

Skills

- Analysis of case-law and judicial findings (incl. identifying connections between various cases as well as the impact of the court rulings on the work of the International Law Commission)
- Legal research skills

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Exam	50%
Course paper	30%
Class participation	20%

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	<i>Main subjects</i>	<i>Planned hours</i>
1	Introduction to the course	1
2	Law of Treaties	14
3	State Responsibility	14
4	Preparation for Final Exam	1