



Course Outline

Course number	RBB402
Course title	International Diplomatic Law
Credit points	3 ECTS/2 LV CP
Total hours	80
Contact Hours	32
Independent Studies	48
Course level	Bachelor
Prerequisites	None
Category	Mandatory X Restricted elective Free elective

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Tjaco van den Hout	LL.M (Leiden)	Visiting Professorial Fellow

COURSE TEACHER

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Tjaco van den Hout	LL.M (Leiden)	Visiting Professorial Fellow

COURSE ABSTRACT

Diplomatic law is a field of international law that deals with diplomatic practice in the broadest sense of the word including the rights and obligations of state representatives on foreign territory. It governs the functioning of diplomatic and consular missions —both permanent and temporary— and defines the specific status and privileges & immunities of various categories of their staff. It also addresses, in some detail, issues related to the concept of “diplomatic immunity” (state immunity, immunity of state officials, etc). Finally, it deals with legal provisions regarding the status of officials of the UN system and of representatives of other international organisations.

Teaching is based on (the modern American law school version of) the “Socratic method” blurring the distinction between lecture and seminar. The course is, from beginning to end, interactive and classes require preparation in order to participate. Students are expected to review the mandatory material in their assignments and should be able, when called upon, to recite the essence of that material in a clear and coherent fashion.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Class preparation and participation	25%
Quizzes	25%
Written exam	50%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class preparation and participation will account for 25% of the course grade. It is recorded by timely submission of the homework assignments while participation is achieved by participation in discussions either spontaneously or when called upon.

Then there are the quizzes. These are meant as a learning tool for students and an objective metric for the teacher to measure at various moments during course students' performance. Student's average quiz score will constitute another 25% of the course grade.

To sit for the final exam students must, in principle, have attended at least 12 of the 16 classes and submitted all homework assignments. The grade for the final exam accounts for the remaining 50% of the course grade.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1.	The evolution of norms governing diplomatic relations	6
2.	Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, its application	16
3.	Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, its application	4
4.	State immunity and immunity of state officials	4
5.	The status of international organizations and their officials	2