

Course Outline

Course number	RBA336				
Course title	International Criminal Law				
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 LV CP)				
Total hours	80				
Contact hours	32				
Independent studies	48				
Course level	Bachelor				
Prerequisites	Public International Law				
Category	Mandatory		Restricted elective	X	Free elective

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

Name	Academic degree	Academic position
Raphael Oidtmann	MA; MCL; MSt	Visiting Lecturer

COURSE ABSTRACT

One of the most significant developments both in international law and international relations throughout the last three decades has been the (re-)emergence of an international legal order based on a robust interpretation of the concept of international criminal justice. By establishing both international and hybrid criminal courts addressing international core crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, the international community has demonstrated an ever more growing commitment to end impunity for the most heinous crimes affecting mankind as a whole and to hold those bearing individual criminal responsibility personally liable.

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to international criminal law (ICL) and familiarizes students with a fundamental understanding of this increasingly important realm of public international law. In a first take, the course provides an overview both of international criminal law's theoretical foundations as well its historical development before turning towards its fundamental principles, including individual criminal responsibility. Subsequently, the course will turn towards (some of) the key actors in past and present international criminal justice, most importantly the ad-hoc tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda as well as the International Criminal Court (ICC) before turning towards both the procedural and substantive dimensions of international criminal law, including an in-depth assessment of the four core international crimes genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. Subsequently, contemporary ICL-related developments – such as most importantly in the context of the War in Ukraine – will be addressed and complemented by an invited guest lecture.

The course relies on a dual approach where theory is followed by practice: thus, several lectures are followed by a seminar where the material of the preceding session is discussed and applied *in concreto*.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Final exam	60%
Reflection paper (c. 1,000 words)	40%

Please note that active participation in all course seminars may increase the final grade by 1 point.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To pass this course, students need to pass a final exam and to submit/pass a short reflection paper on a given topic.

Students are strongly encouraged to actively participate in lectures and seminars and make informed contributions.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1	History and principles of international criminal law	4
2	Key actors of international criminal law	4
3	International crimes: theory and practice	18
4	Current challenges in international criminal law	6