



Course Outline

(Updated 26.08.2024)

Course number	RBE 339					
Course title	International Courts and Tribunals					
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 LV)					
Total hours	75					
Contact hours	32					
Independent studies	43					
Course level	Bachelor					
Prerequisites						
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 (Leiden)	Professorial Fellow

COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Tjaco van den Hout	LLM (Leiden)	Professorial Fellow

COURSE ABSTRACT

This course takes a *macro* look at international adjudicative bodies. It covers the issues that these bodies deal with and the players involved. Against the background of the main

functions of international adjudication the course then examines the question whether there has been a shift over time in the predominance of one or more of these functions.

Yet, the course also immerses students in actual case studies to better understand how some of these functions play out. Students will analyse and solve legal issues in hypothetical cases before international courts and tribunals. In this respect the course is not just theoretical on the basis of new scholarship but also practical, i.e. students will also have ample opportunity to sharpen their legal skills.

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.

GRADING CRITERIA

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Weighting</i>
Assignments	25%
Quizzes	25%
Final Exam	50%

The first criterion is made up of timely submission of assignments. This accounts for 25% of the course grade. Assignments are graded on a ten-point grading scale with non-submission automatically leading to a Fail (0). Students who are active in classroom discussions, can achieve a higher grade at the discretion of the teacher.

The Quizzes constitute the second criterion. They are also graded on a hundred-point grading scale. Quizzes are meant to help students prepare for the Final Exam. The average quiz score constitutes another 25% of the course grade. (In calculating the course grade, the grades for Assignments and Quizzes are averaged —by dividing their sum by 2 —after which they then account for 50% of the course grade.)

The Final Exam is the third criterion. There are two conditions to be able to sit for the Final Exam. First, students must, as a rule, have attended at least 12 of the 16 classes (exemptions from this rule are possible). Second, by Friday of the week prior to the Final Exam, all outstanding assignments must be submitted and be of satisfactory quality. The Final Exam tests students' knowledge of all material covered during the course and accounts for the remaining 50% of the course grade.

The Final Exam consists of multiple choice questions from the quizzes students have taken earlier in the course. Students should try to answer as many questions as possible in the limited time available. The written exam will be online and take place at the school in classroom(s) to be announced. Legitimate exceptions, such as absence from the country for (instance because of the Erasmus Programme) are possible.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Given the nature of this course class attendance is, in principle, mandatory. Students who have an unsatisfactory grade for Assignments (1) are not entitled to sit for the Final Exam. To

pass this course, students are required to have satisfactory grades for the Assignments and the Final Exam.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

<i>No.</i>	<i>Main subjects</i>	<i>Planned hours</i>
1	International courts and tribunals, issues and players	6
2	Multiplication of international courts and tribunals after Cold War	6
3	Issues of proliferation	6
4	Main functions of international adjudication	6