

Course Outline

Course number	RBE339				
Course title	International Courts and Tribunals				
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 LV)				
Total hours	80				
Contact hours	32				
Independent studies	48				
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 Theo van den Hout	LLM (Leiden)	professorial fellow

COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Tjaco Theo 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. It addresses the multiplication of international courts and tribunals after the end of the Cold War and the related issue of “proliferation”. 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.

Much of the material used in this course stems from new scholarship generated by the work of the *Project on International Courts and Tribunals* (PICT). 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

Criteria	Weighting
Homework/assignments and class participation (1) constitute the first criterion. The two elements are interconnected. Assignments should be submitted within stated deadlines and have purposely been scheduled <i>before</i> the lecture in question. A student’s class participation is therefore, to a large extent, a function of (the quality of) his/hers submission. Over the whole course, students can score a maximum of 20 points (out of 100).	25%
Quizzes (2) are taken periodically over the duration of the course. They are taken immediately following the teaching of a particular topic. This criterion ensures that there is an objective metric to test the student’s knowledge during the course. After completion of each quiz the student will see the score in real time. These topic-based quizzes are meant to be an important tool for students in their studies. Taken together with regard to this grading criterion, students can score a maximum of 30 points (out of 100).	25%
The Final Exam (3) is the third grading criterion. The Final Exam is broad in scope and covers all the topics addressed in the reading materials and lectures over the duration of the course. Students can score a maximum of 50 points (out of 100).	50%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Given the nature of this course class attendance is, in principle, mandatory. Class participation is assured by continuously monitoring online submissions of homework assignments given in preparation for the next lecture. Quality of class participation is measured by calling on individual students in class to address a particular issue covered in the reading materials or previously covered in class. Whether in class or online, the approach is the same. To pass this course, students are required to have satisfactory grades for 1) class preparation and participation, 2) the quizzes and 3) the final exam. Students who have an unsatisfactory grade for class preparation and participation (determined by the teacher) are not entitled to sit for the final exam.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	<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