

Crimes against Humanity and Human Rights

2015/2016

Code: 100471

ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500257 Criminology	OT	4	0

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)

Other comments on languages

THE COURSE WILL BE ALL IN ENGLISH

Prerequisites

The course will be all in english

Objectives and Contextualisation

The course aims to provide a non lawyer student an insight view of the core topics of international human rights law and international criminal law, as well as the scope and the content of the legal responses available under two branches of contemporary international law, namely human rights law and international criminal law, to atrocities that can be defined as war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and human rights violations, all by offering a broad and deep understanding of relevant issues and supporting the development of academic skills through the analyzing of such issues theoretically and in practice

Skills

- Ability to analyse and summarise.
- Analysing the conflict and criminology by using the criminological theories and their psychological and sociological foundations.
- Drawing up an academic text.
- Respectfully interacting with other people.
- Students must demonstrate a comprehension of the best crime prevention and intervention models for each specific problem.
- Students must demonstrate they know a variety of criminal policies in order to face criminality and its different foundations.
- Verbally transmitting ideas to an audience.
- Working autonomously.
- Working in teams and networking.

Learning outcomes

1. Ability to analyse and summarise.
2. Accurately applying the prevention models in specific crime situations.
3. Applying the scientific criminological knowledge to the delinquency analysis.

4. Drawing up an academic text.
5. Efficiently applying the foundations of the different crime policies in the professional activity.
6. Respectfully interacting with other people.
7. Verbally transmitting ideas to an audience.
8. Working autonomously.
9. Working in teams and networking.

Content

NOTE:

the compulsory readings to prepare the sessions as well as the topics and/or question will be attach at the campus virtual (moodle) following the moodle chronology. They will be ALL in English

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

2015-2016

PART ONE: GENERAL FRAMEWORK

Topic 1: The international system and its characteristics

- Some misunderstandings about international law and international society
- The main actors at international level
- The normative system of international society
- Who decided the structural principles of international society and its reflection in international law

Topic 2: The individual position under the international legal system

- Distinction between the internal and the international sphere
- The role of the socio-political context to explain the individual position in international law
- The possibilities:
 - Individual rights at international level (what is a right, what is it at International level)
 - Individual crimes at international level (what is a crime, what is it at International level)

PART TWO: CRIMES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

Topic 3: A conceptual framework: crimes recognized under international law

- What is public international law & what is International criminal law
- Sources and principles of international criminal law
- Distinction and relationship between International criminal Law, International Humanitarian Law and International protection of human rights
- Distinction between international crimes, transnational crimes and domestic crimes
- Distinction between the prosecution of international crimes and the cooperation to fight organized crime

Topic 4: The origin of international crimes: The Nüremberg trials and beyond

- What was before the Nüremberg Trials

- The 1940' socio-political context
- The London Charter 1945 and its conciliation with the principle of legality
- The trials and their heritage: International Criminal Law

Topic 5: War Crimes: the law during and arm conflict

- General ideas around The law of war and international humanitarian law
- The sources of IHL: The Geneva conventions and their protocols
- The importance of the concept of armed conflict": distinction between international and non international armed conflict
- The fundamental role of the ICRC
- The regulation and its application in practice
- The prosecution of War crimes: the case law practice

Topic 6: The difficulties around the crime of Genocide

- The concept of genocide: The 1948 Convention
- The specificity of the crime of genocide
- The evolution: the role played by case law practice

Topic 7: The special case of crime against humanity

- The origin and nature of crime against humanity
- The concept of crime against humanity: general characteristics and the evolution of its specific subtypes
 - General elements of the crime
 - Subtypes: from mass murder to sexual aggression

(a) murder; (b) extermination; (c) enslavement; (d) deportation or forcible transfer of population; (e) imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law; (f) torture; (g) rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity; (h) persecution against any identifiable group or collectively on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender ..., or other grounds that are universally recognized as impermissible under international law, in connection with any act referred to in this paragraph or any crime within the jurisdiction of the Court; (i) enforced disappearance of persons; (j) apartheid; (k) other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health.

- Other possible crimes not included as international crimes
- The crime against humanity in practice: the importance of the case law

Topic 8: The double nature of crime of aggression

- State's aggression and individual crime of aggression
- The difficulties around an agreement on the definition of aggression

- The present situation of the crime of aggression

Topic 9: The international prosecutions of international crimes

- The importance of the socio political framework for the creation of ad hoc and hybrids tribunals
- General characteristics of the ad hoc tribunals
- The distinction between ad hoc tribunals and hybrids tribunals
- The ICC:
 - Origin, nature and structure of the ICC
 - The ICC jurisdiction
 - The ICC practice

Topic 10: International criminal law treatment in domestic systems

- The recognition of international crimes as *ius cogens* by some states (i.e. Argentina, Estonia)
- The debate in domestic society about justice and/or peace (i.e. Uruguay, Sudáfrica; CAC)
- The non recognition of international crimes as part of domestic law (i.e. Perú before 2009; Chile)
- An example: the Spanish case. From Pinochet to Garzón's prosecution and the reform of the universal prosecution

PART THREE: VICTIMS PROTECTION MECHANISMS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

Topic 11: International mechanisms to protect humans from a violation of their rights: its slow and reluctant evolution

- Differences and similarities between the conventional and non conventional mechanisms to protect human rights
- The contrast between general and regional protection: commissions / committees / Courts of human rightz

Topic 12: The protection in practice: examples of reports and actions

- The different mechanisms: from special reporters to the committees
- The inspections
- The Periodical reports
- The topic reports
- The individual complaints

Topic 13: Examples of the role of the Security Council in conflict zones: mediators/peace forces (blue helmets) or authorization to intervention

Case studies of actions adopted by the Security Council and its consequences:

- Iraq
- Kosovo
- Ivory Coast
- Congo

- Darfur
- Libya
- Syria
- Palestine territories...

EVALUATION SYSTEM

PAPER ON A CASE STUDY

3.500-4.000 word paper where the student has to analyze one of the case studies after a consultation with the teacher. The structure of the paper must have:

1. Introduction: brief description of the situation and its context
2. Presentation of the human rights problem/s and or international crimes founded in the case
3. Relation of the case with the topics within the course and if it is possible, comparison with other situations studied at class
4. Presentation of the results obtained to protect the human rights so far
5. Proposal for new/alternative/complementary actions to improve the solutions
6. Personal comment of the case

CAMPAIGN REPORT

1.000 words report of a campaign of one topic related with the course by an international organization (IGO or NGO). The report has to include:

1. Introduction: brief description of the topic (context)
2. An explanation of the campaign (aim or purpose and the actions)
3. Presentation of the results obtained to protect the human rights so far
4. Personal evaluation

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Preparation and presentation of the campaign and the case study to the rest of the class.

The presentation of the case study (using power point) has to be focus on the main issues and questions that the situation presents and open a debate about possible way to face it.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

The active attitude of the student and interventions through the sessions is compulsory and it will represent the 20% of the final mark. The simple assistance to classes without intervention will NOT count as participation

READINGS

The previous preparation of the sessions is compulsory and it will count for the final mark.

The compulsory readings for each session, as well as the topics and/or questions to prepare them will be poun out at the campus virtual (moodle) and there will be a reading test or a short question in each session previous to the debate. Therefore the tests or short question cannot be submitted by mail.

NOTE: the paper on the case study, the campaign report and the reading test CANNOT be submitted by e-mail !!!

Methodology

PAPER ON A CASE STUDY

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Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Class participation	31	1.24	3, 6, 1, 7, 9
Type: Supervised			
Campaign report	19	0.76	4, 1, 8

Oral presentation	20	0.8	6, 1, 7, 9
Paper on a case study	35	1.4	4, 1, 8
Type: Autonomous			
Readings	45	1.8	1, 8

Evaluation

The Evaluation system is continuous. The final mark to pass the course is a "5" and there will be no final exam.

To obtain a grade the student has to have a mark over 4 on each of the six different kind of activities proposed:

- 1) Paper on a case study (30%);
- 2) Reading tests (20%);
- 3) Oral presentation (15%);
- 4) Campaign report (15%);
- 5) Class participation (20%)

The paper, the report and the oral presentation will be tutorized to make sure the student will achieve the objective before it gets the final mark, and in the case of the paper and the report there will be a chance to review it to improve the first grade.

Non of the written activities can be submitted by e-mail. They will be only accepted on paper and delivered by hand.

The grade for the tests and participation will be base on the 80% of the total tests/seminars developed during the course. If a student has participated in the 100% of them, the final grade will be based on the 80% best marks.

All this means that the reevaluation will take place through the course, according with the grades of each activity.

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Campaign report	15%	0	0	2, 5, 4, 1, 8
Class participation	20%	0	0	5, 4, 1, 8
Oral presentation	15%	0	0	3, 6, 1, 7, 9
Paper on a case study	30%	0	0	1, 8
Readings	20%	0	0	2, 6, 1, 7, 9

Bibliography

Bibliografia

Basic Legislation:

International Criminal Law and international humanitarian law

International Courts

Statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY-Statute) UN Doc. S/RES/827 (1993)

Statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR-Statute), UN Doc. S/RES/955 (1994),

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Adopted by the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court on 17 July 1998, UN-Dok. A/Conf. 183/9.

UNTAET (United Nations Transitional Administration for East Timor) Regulation 15/2000
<http://www.un.org/peace/etimor/untaetR/r-2000.htm>

Special Court Statute for the Special Court for Sierra Leone (22, January, 2002) <
<http://www.specialcourt.org/documents/Statute.html>.

Coalition Provisional Authority, Statute of the Iraqi Special Tribunal, 10 December 2003, <
www.cpa-iraq.org/audio/20031210_Dec10_Special_Tribunal.htm

1949 Conventions & Additional Protocols:

Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field. Geneva, 12 August 1949. [[Full Text](#)][[Articles](#)][[Commentaries](#)]

Convention (II) for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea. Geneva, 12 August 1949. [[Full Text](#)][[Articles](#)][[Commentaries](#)]

Convention (III) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. Geneva, 12 August 1949. [[Full Text](#)][[Articles](#)][[Commentaries](#)]

Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Geneva, 12 August 1949. [[Full Text](#)][[Articles](#)][[Commentaries](#)]

Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), 8 June 1977. [[Full Text](#)][[Articles](#)][[Commentaries](#)]

Annex I (to the Protocol I) : Regulations concerning identification (as amended on 30 November 1993) [[Full Text](#)][[Articles](#)][[Commentaries](#)]

Annex I (to the Protocol I) : Regulations concerning identification (as of 6 June 1977) [[Full Text](#)][[Articles](#)][[Commentaries](#)]

Annex II (to the Protocol I) [[Full Text](#)][[Articles](#)][[Commentaries](#)]

Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II), 8 June 1977. [[Full Text](#)][[Articles](#)][[Commentaries](#)]

Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III), 8 December 2005 [[Full Text](#)][[Articles](#)][[Commentaries](#)]

Other related documents: <http://www.icrc.org/ihl.nsf/TOPICS?OpenView>

Human Rights

Human rights instruments by topic: <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instree/ainstls1.htm>

Human rights Treaties under United Nations <http://www.bayefsky.com/tree.php/area/treaties>

- [The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#)
- [The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#)
 - [The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#)
 - [The Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#)
- [The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)
 - [Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)
- [The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women](#)
 - [Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women](#)
- [The Convention Against Torture, and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#)
 - [Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#)
- [The Convention on The Rights of the Child](#)
 - [Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict](#)
 - [Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography](#)
 - [Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure](#)
- [International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families](#)
- http://www.bayefsky.com/treaties/disability_convention.php Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
 - [Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)
- [International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance](#)

Human rights treaties in regional systems: <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/instree/auoz.htm>

- [EU Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms](#)
- [African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights](#)
- [American Convention on Human Rights "Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica"](#)

Key web pages:

<http://www.bayefsky.com/bystate.php> This free website includes an extensive documents library organized by country and subject matter. You can find information on ratification, reservations and declarations, state reports, and other key documents.

International Organisations and Related Human Rights and ICL Websites:

[*The United Nations*](#)

[*United Nations Human Rights Council*](#)

[*United Nations Treaty Bodies*](#)

[*United Nations Special Procedures*](#)

[*United Nations Security Council*](#)

[*United Nations Economic and Social Council*](#)

[*International Labour Organisation \(LBO\), Geneva, Switzerland*](#)

www.icc-cpi.int/Menu/ICC

[*World Health Organisation*](#)

[UN Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#)

[UN Environmental Programme](#)

[OHCHR](#) United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

[United Nations Commission for the Status of Women](#)

[Un High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva, Switzerland](#)

[UN Development Programme](#)

[UN Division for the Advancement of Women](#)

[OHCHR International Law](#) Link to UN Human Rights instruments

United Nations Human Rights Committees:

[The Human Rights Committee](#)

[Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)

[Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)

[Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women](#)

[Committee on the Rights of the Child](#)

[Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families](#)

[Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

Regional Human Rights:

[Council of Europe](#)

[The European Union](#)

[The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe](#)

[North Atlantic Treaty Organisation \(NATO\)](#)

[The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture](#)

[European Centre for Minority Issues](#)

[The African Union](#)

[Decisions of the African Commission](#)

[African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights](#)

[Organization of American States](#)

[Inter-American Commission on Human Rights](#)

[The Association of Southeast Asian Nations](#)

[League of Arab States](#)

[Organisation of the Islamic Conference](#)

[South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation](#)

International and Regional Courts:

[International Court of Justice, the Hague, Netherlands](#)

[European Court of Human Rights](#)

[The European Court of Justice](#)

[Inter-American Court of Human Rights](#)

[The African Court of Justice](#)

[International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia](#)

[International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda](#)

Some Non-Governmental Organizations:

[Global Rights](#) A human rights advocacy group that partners with local activists to challenge injustice and amplify new voices within the global discourse

[Human Rights Watch](#) A global independent organisation dedicated to defending and protecting human rights.

[Amnesty International](#) A global charity which campaigns for internationally recognised human rights for all

[Save the Children](#) International Charity which campaigns on behalf of children

[The International Committee of the Red Cross](#) An organisation dedicated to the protection of the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other violence.

[Index on Censorship](#) Organisation promoting freedom of expression

[Minority Rights Group, International](#) International organisation working to secure the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples

[World Organisation against Torture](#) A coalition of non-governmental organisations fighting against torture, summary executions and other inhumane treatment

www.iccnw.org/ coalition for the International Criminal Court coalition of non-governmental organizations lobbying in favor of the ICC

[International Women's Rights Action Watch \(IWRAP\)](#) organized in 1985 at the Third World Conference on Women in Nairobi, Kenya, to promote recognition of women's human rights under the United Nation's Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (the CEDAW Convention), an international human rights treaty

[Freedom House](#) Independent nongovernmental organization that supports the expansion of freedom in the world.

Educational and Research Websites in International Human Rights:

[Universal Human Rights Index of United Nations Documents](#)

[EISIL](#) Electronic Information System for International Law

[United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan](#)

[Human and constitutional Rights](#) Various resources on human rights

[The University of Minnesota, Human Rights Library](#)

[The University of Essex Library](#)

[U.S. Department of State](#) The U.S. State Department's portal of information on U.S. foreign policy

[International Human Rights Lexicon](#)

[Netherlands Institute of Human Rights](#) Database of useful cases and materials in Human Rights law

[The Avalon Project](#) Database of legal documents

[Interights](#) The international centre for the legal protection of human rights database of commonwealth and international human rights cases

[The International Journal of Human Rights](#) Taylor and Francis

[Human Rights Law Review](#) Oxford

[Harvard Human Rights Journal](#) Harvard College

[Sur](#) An international journal published twice annually by Sur - international human rights university network

[Human Rights Law Commentary](#) Journal hosted by the University of Nottingham Human Rights Law Centre, publishes works by academics, practitioners and students

<http://www.law.monash.edu.au/research/projects/icjp/compilation-project/general/international-crimes.html>
Database on articles and other publications related with international criminal law and international humanitarian law

complementary Bibliography:

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