

Course syllabus

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW

PSI 3321

Tamás Hoffmann
McDaniel College Budapest Campus
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Contact information

htamaslaw@gmail.com

Availability

By appointment.

Course description

The course examines the institutional, legal and political framework of one of the newest and most rapidly developing field of international law. By the end of the course, the students will have a comprehensive knowledge concerning the international criminal fora, including the International Criminal Court and the hybrid international criminal tribunals, and will become familiar with the basic concepts of international crimes (war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and aggression). The course will focus heavily on specific international cases and will also analyse the political framework and ramifications of international criminal justice. The course will end with a simulated international criminal trial.

Structure of the course

In addition to lectures on the selected themes, the subject matters of course are going to be examined with the involvement of participants. Students will be expected to read assigned materials and may present a relevant topic. The course will end with a mock (simulated) international criminal trial with student participation.

Course objectives:

- Examine the legal and institutional framework of international criminal justice;
- Examine the political underpinnings of international criminal law;
- Critically evaluated the inherent tensions in international criminal law;
- Explore alternatives to criminal prosecution.

Learning outcomes:

- Students will better understand how the rules and institutions of international criminal justice were designed;

- Students will develop a critical attitude to fundamental questions of international criminal law and appreciate the political context of this body of law.

Required texts

Class reader

Handouts/assigned reading

Recommended text

Douglas Guilfoyle, *International Criminal Law* (O.U.P., 2016).

Course content:

1. Introduction, clarification of basic concepts
2. History of international criminal law
3. Pre-histories: piracy and slavery
4. War crimes
5. Crimes against humanity
6. Genocide
7. Crime of aggression
8. International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)
9. International Criminal Court
10. Hybrid tribunals
11. National prosecution of international crimes
12. Transitional justice
13. Mock (simulated) international criminal trial

Assignments & grading

Grading system -- 100 points total

*mid-term exam (40 points)

*final exam (40 points)

*class participation – reading reactions + mock trial participation (20 points but extra points might be rewarded for exceptional performance)

Standard scale: 100+ A+
 93-100 A
 90-92 A-
 88-89 B+
 83-87 B
 80-82 B-
 78-79 C+
 73-78 C
 70-72 C-

68-69 D+
63-67 D
60-62 D-
< 60 F

Honor Code

You are expected without question to adhere completely to the McDaniel College academic honor code. Any violation will result in a zero for the given assignment and other possible sanctions.