

# Syllabus

**Swedish Course title:** International law in crisis and conflict

**English term:** International Law in Crisis and Conflict

**Course code:** 1FR004 (free standing course), 1FK039 (optional course in program)  
**Valid from:** HT2017  
**Approved:** This is an English translation of the syllabus which was approved by the Research and Education Board's course plan committee at the Swedish Defence University 2017-02-16.  
**Institution:** Department of Security, Strategy and Leadership (ISSL)  
**Subject:** Law and Legal studies  
**Level:** Undergraduate  
**Extent:** 30 credits

## **Prerequisites and other conditions for admission to the course**

Civics A and English B.

## **Main area**

Law with a focus on international law

## **Successive Advancement**

G1N

## **Advancement**

Basic course

## **Course content and layout**

### **Course content**

The overall objective of the course is for students to gain knowledge of the international legal system with particular emphasis on crisis and conflict. The course is divided into four modules. The first module gives an introduction to the international legal system and its structure, including how international law relates to other disciplines such as political science. Current trends and developments in the field of international law are also discussed in this section. The course thereafter focuses on international law in crisis and conflict. Module two provides the students with an introduction to international human rights law. Module three examines the law of conflict prevention with a particular focus on the UN Charter and the rules regarding the prohibition on the use of force in international relations. Module four is focused on international law for military operations, both in armed conflict (the law of war) and in peace operations. The course will be largely given in English.

## **Course Outline**

Part I (15 HE credits)

1. Foundations of International Law
2. Human Rights

Part II (15 HE credits)

3. Conflict Prevention Law (especially UN Charter)
4. Law of Military Operations

The course modules start with lectures where the content of each module is introduced. Each module ends with a mandatory teacher-evaluated seminar. Before each seminar, students prepare an assignment, individually or in groups, to be presented orally or in writing at the seminar. Students are divided into groups to prepare the seminars. A written examination is conducted after Module 1 - 2 (Part I) and after Module 3 - 4 (Part II).

### **Learning outcomes of the course**

After completing the course, students should be able to:

- identify and verbally and in writing describe the fundamental principles of international law and the specific subjects included in the course, focusing on international law in crisis and conflict, such as conflict prevention focusing on the UN Charter, human rights and international humanitarian law.
- apply the rules of international law that are dealt with during the course on concrete cases and orally argue for different international law solutions.
- independently and together with others solve selected complex issues within the field of international law.
- present a solution to a chosen international law problem orally and in writing.
- independently critically discuss the role of international law in the international community.
- orally and in writing account for the background of the development of international law.
- describe and thereby explain the standpoint of different states and other actors towards international law.

### **Knowledge control and examination**

Examination takes place through participation in examining seminars and through two written examinations.

Part I - Examination is conducted through a final written exam and by written or oral seminars for each module. Active participation in seminars is mandatory.

Part II - Examination is conducted through a final written exam and by written or oral seminars for each module. Active participation in seminars is mandatory.

The written examinations are conducted in the form of classroom examinations and comprise together 15 higher education credits. The examining seminars comprise 15 higher education credits. They are mandatory and require active attendance.

Below are the general guidelines for the entire course.

- Examination tasks are evaluated on the basis of grading criteria, which are handed out in writing by the course coordinator at the start of the course.
- The teacher decides whether each participant has fulfilled the requirement for active participation, which means that the student participates in the discussions and verbally relates to the topic.
- A student who is absent from more than one compulsory course element per course can generally not pass the course. In exceptional cases, depending on events outside the control of the student, absence from two compulsory course elements may be accepted. Absence

shall be replaced by a (written or oral) assignment. Other compensatory tasks may occur, according to specific instructions from the examiner.

- A student who is absent from more than allowed number of compulsory elements may attend the missed mandatory elements at the next course.
- The examiner may decide that an examination assignment that does not reach the grade Pass *in certain cases* may be supplemented with oral or written assignment. Such assignment must be submitted or presented within three working days after the assignment has been handed out by the examiner.
- Alternative forms of examination may be provided for students in need of special support.

### **Number of examinations**

No limitation on the number of examinations.

### **Grades**

The grades Passed with Distinction (VG), Passed (G) or Fail (U) is given on the course. The examination at the compulsory seminars gives the grades Passed and Fail. For the final grade Pass with Distinction on the entire course, Pass with Distinction is required on the two written examinations and Passed on the compulsory seminars. For the final grade Pass on the entire course, Pass is required for the two written examinations and on the compulsory seminars.

### **Course literature and other teaching materials**

See appendix.

### **Transitional provisions**

When the course is no longer given or when the course content changes significantly, the student is entitled to be examined once per semester during a three-semester period according to this syllabus.

### **Miscellaneous**

The course is given as a single-subject/free-standing course and as an elective course in the Swedish Defence University's candidate program.

A large part of the course is given in English.

The completed course is evaluated by a written evaluation. Course development is conducted in consultation with student representatives. Proposals for reforms are considered in teaching meetings and are reported to the subject councils that decide on possible changes.