



**Course Syllabus**  
**International Criminal Law**

Internationell straffrätt

|                            |                                   |                                |  |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Course Code</b>         | 20J003                            | <b>Main Field of Study</b>     | International Operational Law  |
| <b>Valid from Semester</b> | Autumn 2022                       | <b>Department</b>              | Department of Political Science and Law  |
| <b>Education Cycle</b>     | Advanced level                    | <b>Subject</b>                 | International and Operational Law  |
| <b>Scope</b>               | 5.0                               | <b>Language of Instruction</b> | The teaching is conducted in English.  |
| <b>Progression</b>         | A1N                               | <b>Decided by</b>              | The Research and Education Board's Course Syllabus Committee at the Swedish Defence University |
| <b>Grading Scale</b>       | Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction | <b>Decision date</b>           | 2020-10-13   |
| <b>Revision</b>            | 1.0                               |                                |  |

#### **Entry Requirements**

Degree of Master of Laws or Degree of Bachelor of Science in Law with Specialisation in International Law or equivalent plus English B or English 6.

#### **Course Content and Structure**

The purpose of the course is to give the student a deeper understanding of international criminal law. The course mainly covers the material parts of international criminal law, but also addresses certain procedural and institutional aspects.

The course begins with a brief historical and structural overview, as well as a review of the basic principles and methodologies of criminal law applicable under international conditions. The four main types of international crimes - war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and aggression - and their relationships to one another are then studied. This is followed by modes of liability, including command / superior responsibility. After this, issues regarding grounds for excluding criminal responsibility, etc., are discussed, along with jurisdictional and similar issues. Finally, certain procedural, institutional and thematic issues relating to current international criminal law are touched on.

Course structure:

1. Introduction
2. Basic principles and methodologies
3. Punishable conduct
4. Modes of liability
5. Grounds for excluding criminal responsibility
6. International criminal procedure
7. Special issues concerning international criminal law
8. Conclusion and examination

The course begins with lectures interspersed with self-study. The course then alternates between self-studies, group work and seminars, which together give the students a foundation for the course's final written on-campus examination.

#### **Intended Learning Outcomes**

After having completed the course, the student should be able to:

##### Knowledge and understanding

describe the background, foundation and structure of international criminal law as a combination of criminal law, criminal procedure and public international law.



### Competence and skills

explain international crimes as social phenomena and their suppression from legal perspectives.

argue critically, logically and independently, especially in the context of international criminal law.

analyze the background, foundation and structure of international criminal law as a combination of criminal law, criminal procedure and public international law.

### Judgment and approach

explain and evaluate the interaction between legal rules and social norms that lay at the foundation for the content, procedures and institutions of international criminal law.

### **Type of Instruction**

Seminars

Group Work

Lectures

Independent Study

### **Assessment**

#### **Individual written examination**

Scope: 3.0

Grading Scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction

Assessment takes place through a written on-campus examination during which the student has access to the course literature.

#### **Participation in compulsory seminars**

Scope: 2.0

Grading Scale: Fail, Pass

Assessment takes place through mandatory seminars.

Examinations submitted late will not be graded unless special circumstances exist and the examiner finds the reason acceptable.

The examiner may decide to allow supplementation in order for a passing grade to be achieved in the course. The supplementation shall be submitted no later than three working days after notification of the examination results and the decision on supplementation, unless special circumstances exist that are acceptable to the examiner.

### **Grading**

Grades are set according to a three-grade scale: Pass with Distinction (PwD), Pass (P) and Fail (F). Grading criteria are specified by no later than the start of the course.

To earn the grade Pass (P), the student must actively participate in mandatory seminars and earn a grade of Pass (P) on the written on-campus examination.

To earn the grade Pass with Distinction (PwD) in the course, the student must meet the requirements for Pass (P) and earn a grade of Pass with Distinction (PwD) on the written on-campus examination.

### **Restrictions in Number of Examinations**

The number of examinations is not limited.

### **Restrictions Concerning Degree**

The course cannot be included in a degree with another course whose content fully or partially corresponds to the content of this course.

### **Transitional Provisions**

When the course is no longer given or when the course content has changed substantially, the student has the right to be examined once per semester during a three-term period in accordance with this syllabus.

### **Miscellaneous**



The course is given within the Swedish Defense University's Master's Program in International Operational Law, and may also be given as a freestanding course.

If a student has a decision from the Swedish Defense University on special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may decide on alternative forms of examination for the student.

On completion of the course, an evaluation will be conducted under the auspices of the course director and will serve as the basis for any changes to the course.



Reading List

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**Revision** 1.0

**Reading List Valid from Date** --

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