



Course Syllabus
International Law and the Use of Force

Internationell rätt och våldsanvändning

Course Code	20J004	Main Field of Study	International Operational Law
Valid from Semester	Autumn 2022	Department	Department of Political Science and Law
Education Cycle	Advanced level	Subject	International and Operational Law
Scope	5.0	Language of Instruction	The teaching is conducted in English.
Progression	A1N	Decided by	The Research and Education Board's Course Syllabus Committee at the Swedish Defence University
Grading Scale	Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction	Decision date	2020-09-23
Revision	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 overall aim of the course is to give the student an advanced ability to investigate and critically evaluate how use of force is regulated in international law (jus ad bellum).

The course covers the prohibition of the use of force in international relations under international law, with its claimed exceptions. Topics covered include the definition of 'force' in international law, threats and minor uses of force, the right to self-defence and the use of self-defence against non-state actors, the use of force under the collective security regime, the use of force by regional organisations, humanitarian intervention and other debated exceptions to the prohibition.

During the course, the student will work with contemporary challenges for international law in the area, discuss current issues in the international discourse, and apply their knowledge to current situations.

Instruction is carried out as a combination of lectures and seminars intended to guide the students in their learning. The lectures are designed to provide key building blocks and frameworks for student learning. The lectures are combined with seminars, where the students consolidate and apply their knowledge to specific problems or issues in the subject. This combination of theory and application forms the basis for the final assessment and examination.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

- explain the importance and development of the right to use force under international law, and be able to correctly identify and explain the key legal rules in this area.

Competence and skills

- apply the rules of international law regarding use of force and their exceptions to contemporary issues, and provide both verbal and written arguments for different solutions to such issues,
- critically analyse arguments for claimed exceptions to the prohibition on the use of force.

Judgement and approach

- independently and together with others, explain relate and evaluate complex international law problems related to the use of force.

Type of Instruction



Seminars

Lectures

Assessment

On- Campus Examination

Scope: 3.5

Grading Scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction

Assessment takes place through a written on-campus examination.

Participation in compulsory seminars

Scope: 1.5

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 (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). 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 Defence University's Master's Programme in International Operational Law, and may also be given as a freestanding course.

If a student has a decision from the Swedish Defence University regarding 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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