



Public International Law

Degree in Law - 2025/2026

Course

Public International Law (1st semester)

Professor and respective teaching load in the course

Maria Luísa Duarte (2 h/week)

Professor/Assistant for the English class

Francisco Cordeiro de Araújo (2h/week)

Teaching objectives (knowledge, skills and competences to be developed by students)

- acquiring basic knowledge on the nature and specificity of the international community
- developing knowledge of the principles and fundamental rules of Public International Law (PIL)
- performing a critical analysis of the key implementation problems and PIL guarantee
- gaining knowledge and interpretation skills of key normative texts
- critical reasoning, oral and written expression, collaborative skills

Contents

1. PIL: genesis, scope and nature
2. PIL - General Part
 - 2.1. Sources
 - 2.2. PIL and Internal Law
 - 2.3. PIL Subjects
 - 2.4. Statehood
 - 2.5. International Organizations
3. PIL - Special Part
 - 3.1. International protection of human rights
 - 3.2. International law and the use of force
 - 3.3. International Law and Global Challenges (eg. Climate Change)

Demonstration of the coherence of the syllabus contents with the objectives of the course

The definition of these contents, within the vast areas subject to international regulation, aims to provide students with an introductory and general formation of the PIL, with an incursion into the specific subject of international protection of the individual.



Teaching methodologies/Evaluation

Classes will include critical analysis of texts, decisions of the international courts, simulations and resolution of problems.

Student participation is encouraged. For that purpose, specific readings will be indicated for each class. Discussion and critical analysis of problems will be promoted in small groups of students and then discussed with the entire class.

Evaluation comprises the following features:

- exercises on moodle
- activities in class; and
- a written test at the end of semester.

Students who obtain a grade equal to or higher than 10 points are approved. Students who do not obtain such grade are admitted to a written exam.

Demonstration of the coherence of the methodologies with the learning goals of the course

The teaching method enables students to acquire and consolidate theoretical and practical knowledges about structuring aspects of the PIL and to understand its role in the world.

Main bibliography

Basic Bibliography

- KLABBERS, Jan – *International Law*, 3rd ed., Cambridge Univ. Press, 2020.
- SHAW, Malcolm N. – *International Law*, 9th ed, Cambridge Univ. Press, 2021 (ebook)