Master's programme Law, Specialisation Transnational Legal Studies
VU University Amsterdam - Faculteit der Rechtsgeleerdheid - Master of Laws - 2013-2014
The Master's degree programme in Law, specialization Transnational Legal Studies has a study load of 60 credits, 1 academic year. The 2013-2014 academic programme consists of:

• 1 advanced course, choose from: European Law Seminars (12 EC) and International Law Seminars (12 EC)
• 2 compulsory courses: Transnational Law and Social Movements (6 EC) and Legal Methodology (Methoden van Rechtswetenschap) (6 EC)
• 1 integration course (6 EC), choose from the list below
• 1 elective course of the specialization (6 EC), choose from the list below
• 2 elective courses, from the lists below or not specifically related to this specialization (total of 12 EC), or 1 elective course (6 EC) + an internship (min. 6 EC).
• Master’s thesis (12 EC)

There is also the possibility to undertake an internship or a period of study abroad.

You can find a calendar for this programme on www.vu.nl/en: click on the master’s programme under ‘Programmes’ and from here go to ‘Study programme’.
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Master's programme Law - Specialisation Transnational Legal Studies - Compulsory and Advanced courses

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Master's programme Law - Specialisation Transnational Legal Studies - Electives of the Specialisation

Courses:

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<td>International Law Clinic</td>
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<td>The Politics of International Law</td>
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Master's programme Law - Specialisation Transnational Legal Studies - Integration Courses

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<tr>
<td>Children's Rights from an International Perspective</td>
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<td>E-Commerce Law</td>
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<td>International and European Criminal Law</td>
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Course objective
Building upon foundation courses such as constitutional law, family law
and international law, this course will develop your knowledge of
children's rights in international conventions. The relationship between
children's rights and human rights will be treated, and the way in which
children's rights are secreted and 'discovered' in human rights
treaties. Questions of law-finding are considered. Additionally the
question of direct applicability of international treaty provisions will
be treated, specifically in relation to Children's Rights.
Research techniques will be developed, specifically through the training
in identifying a suitable research question (for the paper) and
establishing a suitable structure (for the paper), and the development
of a cogently argued answer to the research question.
Analysis of (international) case law, reading a case.
How to work with international treaty provisions.
Students will explore practical techniques of reasoning, by looking at
cases and problems in class.
Techniques of legal writing will be developed, in the paper and in the
writing of the weblog.
Students will practice their oral and written skills in the English
language, with a native speaker.

Course content
The foundation is the theory and emergence of children's rights. The
choice of subjects strives to treat of selection of examples of the
different sorts of children's rights (participation, protection and
provision) whilst also treating the rights which are the most important
in practice. The choice focusses around children's rights which play a
large role in Western societies - and even more particularly the threat
to the rights of children outside on the streets of Amsterdam - rather
than children's rights in the world.

The topics are:
1. Theory of children's rights and their sources;
2. The child's right to be heard by persons taking decisions affecting him/her and to participate in decisions concerning him/her;
3. Child protection (with special attention for the child's position);
4. The immigrant child's rights (or lack thereof);
5. The child's rights in detention (or right not to be);
6. Anti-discrimination and children's rights (which deals with discrimination in education);
7. Juvenile criminal law.

This list is short but through the freedom of choice regarding the topic of weblog, paper and oral presentation it is possible to take in other topics not treated in the lectures, such as the child's right to health, children in armed conflicts, pornography etc. Topics treated in the lectures may vary from year to year. For instance last year (2012-2013) Professor Alink did a session on the causes of child abuse and there was no session on discrimination. The choice of main topics may be varied to follow needs of students.

**Form of tuition**

Lectures transfer a body of basic information on children's rights. The writing of a paper develops research skills (needed to choose a topic and provide relevant legal sources), analytical skills (legal reasoning needed to provide cogent arguments) and written communicative skills. Specifically, the course aims to train students to analyse a particular factual situation in the light of national and international law and identify whether national law is in line with international law and whether the factual situation gives rise to violations of children's rights embedded in international law.

The weblog and the oral presentation trains the students to identify whether a problem of children's rights obtains in a given factual situation, and to isolate which children's rights are implicated. These parts of the course enable the teacher to assess the progress being made by the students (even though no marks are given). These elements are also designed to help students to find a good topic for their paper.

The weblog trains in writing a short and punchy text, isolating the most relevant parts.

The presentation trains the student to explore attractive ways of presenting complex ideas.

A maximum of 25 students can participate in the course. Attendance at the lectures is required.

**Type of assessment**

Paper.

**Course reading**

Basic literature is Geraldine van Bueren's book, The International Law on the Rights of the Child, Martinus Nijhoff, 1995. A number of loose articles are also studied, and a number of cases of international bodies particularly the European Court of Human Rights, the General Comments of the Children's Committee and international treaties.

**Remarks**

In some years there has been an outing. This was for example in previous years, attendance of a court hearing concerning child protection, a visit to the children's law centre in Leiden. There may not always be an outing and attendance is optional.
Competition Law

Course objective
The purpose of this course is a study of global antitrust law (competition law) and economics. This is not a course on comparative law in the sense of analysing comparisons purely in order to shed light on laws that are really national in application. Rather the conviction is that this combination of laws from varying nations in actual practice presents a truer picture of the overall regime of competition law that now faces multinational market players.

Course content
The focus is on EU and US for several reasons. First, as practical matter, the lion's share of global antitrust enforcement is done by the EU and US. Second, as a conceptual matter, nations outside those jurisdictions by and large borrow the basic statutory frameworks of either the US and EU and employ similar methods of antitrust analysis. Knowing how the US and EU have grappled with the standard set of antitrust problems thus goes a long way to understand how antitrust analysis is done in the rest of the world too. Other nations are discussed in a bit more length where they seem to clearly raise a 'third way' of addressing an important antitrust issue.

Form of tuition
Lectures and a take home examination.

Participation in the lectures is compulsory.

Type of assessment
Take home examination.

Course reading
- Richard Whish, Competition Law, Oxford University Press, 2012,
- Handouts and other literature to be announced.

E-Commerce Law

Course code  R_E.commerc (200942)
Period        Period 5
Credits       6.0
Language of tuition  English
Faculty      Faculteit der Rechtsgeleerdheid
Course objective
The prime goal of the course is to obtain a general understanding of legal issues that occur when doing business online. The European Union directives related to electronic commerce are taken as a starting point in this course.

Course content
E-commerce conducted between businesses is already quite successful, and so is consumer e-commerce. Current legislation has been drafted for a paper-based society. For the information society services adaptations to existing legislation or drafting of new legislation is necessary. For that purpose the European Commission has enacted several directives over the years. The course gives insight into the main issues on e-commerce such as liability of service providers, electronic contracting, identity theft and online dispute resolution.

Form of tuition
Layered knowledge transfer model:

1. Reading Materials;
2. Lecture;
3. Three questions, with changing groups of three;
4. Interactive tutorial.

Guarantees pleasant course, and obtaining good knowledge.

Type of assessment
The course will be assessed by the following components:

- Paper(s).
- Presentation(s).
- Assignment(s).

Course reading
Via Blackboard, inter alia Lodder & Kaspersen (eds.) Edirectives.

Remarks
In the course 2012/13 we experimented with 2 minute videos to be recorded by students on selected topics.

EU Internal Market Law
Course objective
This course primarily contributes to the following 'end terms' of the programme: 1,3,4,8,13,14

It has as its goals that students:

- Acquire an advanced knowledge of the law of the EU internal market;
- Are able to independently analyse complex factual situations and apply the law to these situations;
- Are able to construct a legal argument based on proper use of legal sources;
- Are able to criticise the state of the law in the light of legal coherence and social concerns, and to take an argued standpoint on current academic debates concerning this law.

Course content
The following topics will be addressed in the course:

- Free movement of goods, services, persons, companies and capital in the EU;
- The internal situation;
- The application of free movement law to private actors;
- The protection of public and social interests in EU internal market law.

Form of tuition
The classes will be partly lectures, but with a great deal of room for discussion and questions. Students are expected to actively express opinions and pose questions.

Type of assessment
Scheduled written examination.

Course reading

European and Dutch Competition Law
European Law Seminars

Course code | R_EurLS ()
---|---
Period | Period 1+2
Credits | 12.0
Language of tuition | English
Faculty | Faculteit der Rechtsgeleerdheid
Coordinator | C. Kaupa
Examinator | C. Kaupa
Teaching staff | prof. dr. G.T. Davies, C. Kaupa
Teaching method(s) | Study Group
Level | 500

Course objective
The principal course objective is to enable students to acquire knowledge and understanding of the law in relation to EU law and to be able to discuss critically at an advanced level the legal and policy issues arising there from.

The course is divided into two parts with part I providing an introduction to EU constitutional law and part II focussing on selected (advanced) issues in European Constitutional Law.

Course content
The following topics will be addressed in the course:

- Part I: topics include, Enforcement of EU law, division of powers, protection of fundamental rights, the Court of Justice's jurisdiction, general principles of EU law and state liability;
- Part II: topics include the principle of effectiveness, the relationship between National Courts and the Court of Justice, Subsidiarity, general principles, EU and global governance, the area of freedom, security and justice, the notion of national identity as well as the external dimension of the European Union.

Form of tuition
Interactive Lecturers and seminars. Course essay.

Part 2 is compulsory.

Type of assessment
The course will be assessed by the following components:

- Scheduled written examination.
- Paper(s).
- Assignment(s).

Course reading
To be announced on Blackboard.

Human Rights Protection in Europe
Course objective
The aim of this course is to familiarise students with the functioning of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), other relevant Council of Europe bodies (such as the Committee for the Prevention of Torture) and relevant EU-instruments. Students will acquire an indepth and specialised knowledge of the most important case-law of the ECtHR. During the course we will look at the interaction of the ECtHR with European societies and the impact of its case-law on sensitive societal issues. The aim of the course is to enable students to analyse judgements of the Court, to understand the interpretation methods used by the Court, and to induce general rules from the specific cases which were decided by the Court.

Course content
The course looks at the historic development of (international) human rights standards and the implementation of those standards in the domestic legal orders of European states. It examines the procedure before the ECtHR and the interpretation methods used by the Court. The course then looks at human rights standards in the field of the right to life, the prohibition of torture, guarantees in case of a deprivation of liberty, the right to a fair trial, the right to private and family life, freedom of religion and freedom of expression. The course also studies the increasing role of the European Union in respect of human rights related issues.

Form of tuition
Lectures will be used to discuss the various ECtHR judgments and to impart knowledge of the European human rights mechanisms.

Type of assessment
Scheduled written examination.

Course reading
Materials and handouts will be provided by the lecturer during the course.

International and European Criminal Law
Course objective

This course contributes to the following objectives of the Degree Programme (objectives in the Regulations): A, B, and D.

The objective of this course is to provide students with knowledge and understanding of both the substantive and procedural aspects of international criminal law. At the end of the course students will have learnt about legal issues that lie at the heart of the international criminal justice system. By adopting a comparative criminal law method, this course also provides students with a better understanding of their own national criminal law system. Throughout the course, we will keep in touch with current events in the field.

Course content

The following topics will be addressed in the course:

1. Jurisdiction and prosecution of international crimes in national law;
2. The history of international criminal justice;
3. The institutional structure of the ad hoc Tribunals of Yugoslavia (ICTY), and Rwanda (ICTR), the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the ‘mixed Tribunals’;
4. The co-operation between national states and the ICTY and ICTR on the one hand, and the ICC on the other hand (‘primacy’ versus ‘complementarity’) and the relationship of the Tribunals and the Court with the UN;
5. The Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the ICTY, ICTR and ICC. Do they constitute a sui generis process model or a mixed/hybrid model?
6. Substantive law issues such as responsibility of the (military and civil) superior (‘superior responsibility’), grounds for excluding liability and participation to a ‘Joint Criminal Enterprise’;
7. Procedural law issues such as abuse of process, subpoena, arrest and surrender, evidence, appeal, sentencing and fair trial rights.
**Form of tuition**
During the lectures, the week's subjects will be introduced and illustrated with examples from the field. Students are encouraged to participate actively and ask questions.

The tutorials are used to discuss the subjects more comprehensively. The weekly assignments will be discussed and there is room for group discussions. Students must participate actively.

**Type of assessment**
The course will be assessed by the following components:

- Scheduled written examination.
- Assignments.

**Course reading**

**International Humanitarian Law**

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**Course objective**
On successful completion of the module students will be able:

1. to demonstrate deep and systematic understanding of humanitarian law within the framework of international law;
2. to apply humanitarian law to address the protection of combatants and non-combatants in situations of both internal and international armed conflicts;
3. to critically analyze key concepts of humanitarian law, including prisoners of war, protected persons, war crimes, neutrality, belligerent occupation;
4. to define and critically assess the role of the United Nations, individual States and non-governmental organizations, particularly the International Committee of the Red Cross, in the development and implementation of humanitarian norms;
5. to critically assess the role and function of international criminal tribunals and domestic courts in applying and developing the relevant law.

**Course content**
The course provides a systematic treatment of the basic rules and principles of international humanitarian law. It examines the practice and law related to international humanitarian law and in particular the qualification of conflicts, the distinction between combatants and non combatants, the methods and means of warfare, the protection of civilians and prisoners of war, the law of neutrality and war crimes. It also considers current problems in international humanitarian law,
including the challenges posed by new forms of conflicts and violence, the interplay between international humanitarian law and human rights law, the regulation of private military companies.

Form of tuition
The module will be delivered through lectures. Students are expected to read beforehand the required materials beforehand and to actively participate in the discussion. Students are also invited to make a 10-minute informal presentation starting with week 2.

Lectures:
1. Nature and scope of IHL;
2. Sources of IHL;
3. Qualification of armed conflicts;
4. Combatants and non-combatants;
5. Persons hors de combat and prisoners of war;
6. Conduct of hostilities I;
7. Conduct of hostilities II;
8. Law of occupation;
9. Implementation of IHL;
10. Private military companies;

The course will be completed by a role play exercise.

Type of assessment
The course will be assessed by:

- A paper.

Course reading
Required materials:
- Literature, documents and cases indicated in the reading list for each lecture, which will be available on Blackboard.

Recommended materials:

International Intellectual Property Law
Course objective
The course provides an overview of the international legal framework for the protection of intellectual property (IP).
Participants will obtain a general understanding of the role of IP protection in international trade, underlying policy considerations and the current debate on imbalances in the international protection system. Participants will acquire the ability to identify and solve problems arising from the international nature of intellectual property, and the ability to assess the current IP system critically in the light of social, cultural and economic needs in developing and developed countries.

Course content
The course focuses on the principles and minimum standards of protection established in the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and, in particular, the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). The following issues will be dealt with in particular:

• IP protection and public health;
• The balance between IP protection and freedom to create;
• The regulation of market access in the pharmaceutical industry;
• Further current topics on the international IP agenda.

International intellectual property registration systems constitute an additional topic of the course. The Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks and the Patent Cooperation Treaty will be discussed.

Form of tuition
During the lectures (two hours per week), the international legal framework for the protection of intellectual property will be introduced and discussed. During the seminars, this knowledge will further be enhanced by exploring specific problem areas, such as patent protection and public health, copyright protection and freedom of information in the digital environment, and trademark protection and advertising regulations.

A maximum of 50 students can participate in the course. Participation in the seminars is compulsory.

Type of assessment
The course will be assessed by the following components:

- Scheduled written examination.
- Presentation(s).

Course reading
The course will be based on the following book:
The course material also offers short summaries of copyright, trademark and patent protection that may serve as a first introduction to the main branches of protection.

Additional commentary literature can be found in the library of the VU University, such as:


International Law Clinic

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<td>Period</td>
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<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Faculteit der Rechtsgeleerdheid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>mr. A.M. de Hoon</td>
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Course objective
The objective of the International Law Clinic is to enable students to conduct legal and policy research for clients in conflict and post-conflict situations. Students thereby acquire advanced knowledge of selected topics of international and comparative law, legal research and writing skills, as well as professional development as an international lawyer.

Course content
International Law Clinic provides students the opportunity to conduct legal research for governments and non-state actors’ leaderships in conflict or post-conflict situations. Topics include domestic prosecution of international crimes, the settlement of international disputes, rule of law development, the protection of human rights, and transitional justice.

Form of tuition
Team meetings with clinical staff and participants to discuss new and progress on assignments, as well as developments in (conflict) situations of clients; Individual tutorials.

Students are obliged to attend the meeting with entire clinic staff and participants that takes place once every two weeks. In addition they are obliged to meet in between those meetings on an individual basis with supervisors and/or peers to discuss work progress whenever needed.
Students commit to participate in the International Law Clinic for the full Academic Year. They commit to an average of approximately 12-16 hours per week throughout this period. All participants of the International Law Clinic need to sign a Confidentiality Agreement. Each year, a maximum of 10 students may be accepted to participate in the International Law Clinic. The Clinic continues throughout the academic year. Students that want to apply for the clinic need to have a basic understanding of public international law, good research and writing skills, and an excellent knowledge of English. To apply, students need to send a CV, cover letter and list of grades to the course coordinator.

**Type of assessment**
Students are assessed based on several written assignments throughout the year, their team work, and their professional conduct.

**Course reading**
Depends on the assignment.

**International Law Seminars**

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<tr>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>prof. dr. W.G. Werner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching staff</td>
<td>dr. H.M.G. Denters, prof. dr. W.G. Werner, G.M. Gordon</td>
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**Course objective**
Upon completion of the course, the student has acquired:

- insight in theories of constitutionalism, pluralism, cosmopolitanism, interactionism and critical theory;
- the skills to apply these theories to fields of positive law, in particular WTO law, UN law, law of the sea and international criminal law.

**Course content**
The following topics will be addressed in the course:

- Theories of constitutionalism, pluralism, cosmopolitanism, interactionism and critical theory;
- WTO law, UN law, law of the sea and international criminal law.

**Form of tuition**
More traditional lectures will be used to set out theories of international law. Discussions during the seminar will be used to deepen insight in theories and their application. Cases and moot court will be used to strengthen practical skills of the students.

**Type of assessment**
The course will be assessed by the following components:

- 4 papers during the course.
- Presentation(s).

Course reading
Syllabus with references to mandatory texts (available online).

Law and Religion in Europe

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<tr>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>prof. dr. J.W. Sap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Lecture, Study Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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Course objective
After completion of the course, students should:
- Have a broad understanding of insights into the interrelationships of law and religion in Europe;
- Understand the laws of religion in their national, EU, ECHR and international contexts;
- Understand the principles of law on religion common to the states of Europe and the EU and ECHR;
- Be able to participate in current legal and political debates on law and religion within Europe;
- Be able to write and critically reflect on topics related to law and religion within Europe.

Course content
States in Europe all have their own specific national laws on religion that are subject to debate. This course offers a comparative analyses to the laws of religion in Europe. What are their origins and underlying principles? What is the relationship between Church and State? What are the main similarities between states, and what are the main differences? Is it possible to articulate principles on law and religion common to the states of Europe and how are these reflected in the EU and ECHR?

Form of tuition
Throughout the course the lectures will serve the following purpose:
- Discussing the literature;
- Discussing relevant case law.

There are ten general classes, (two per week), and several seminars which will focus on specific topics and on draft papers handed in by the students.

Type of assessment
The course will be assessed by the following components:

- Scheduled written examination.
- Paper(s).
Course reading
- Additional literature will be provided on Blackboard.

Legal Methodology

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<tr>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>dr. mr. L.M. Poort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examinator</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching staff</td>
<td>prof. dr. B.M.J. van Klink, dr. mr. L.M. Poort, mr. F.M. Gilligan</td>
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Migration Law

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<td>mr. dr. A.M. Reneman</td>
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Private International Commercial Law

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<tr>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>mr. M. Zilinsky</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching staff</td>
<td>prof. mr. P. Vlas, mr. M. Zilinsky</td>
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Course objective
The main goal of this course is to equip students with the knowledge and skills to apply private international law rules in international commercial trade practice.

Course content
This course deals with aspects of private international law that may be relevant whenever cross-border commercial disputes are to be resolved. Students will first be familiarised with general principles of private international law. Subsequently, they will be introduced to how to resolve the question of jurisdiction in international contracts, and how parties to a contract may prevent themselves from being sued in a foreign jurisdiction. The course further deals with issues of choice of law. In particular, it will examine which law governs an international commercial contract, having regard to the rules of the Rome I Regulation. Issues regarding recognition and enforcement of foreign court judgements and legal issues regarding insolvency conclude the topics that are focussed on in this course.

Form of tuition

Type of assessment
The course will be assessed by the following components:

- Scheduled written examination.
- Oral examination.

Course reading

• Texts and documents available on Blackboard.

Private International Law

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The Politics of International Law

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Course objective
After completion of the course, students should:
- Have a broad understanding of insights from international relations and legal theory into the core interrelationship of politics and law in international relations;
- Have thorough knowledge of the principles used and problems raised in distinguishing political from legal issues in international adjudication;
- Understand the political dimension of legal decision-making in actual international legal practice;
- Understand the challenges of institutional solutions to international problems of a mixed political and legal character;
- Be able to reflect critically on possible alternative ways of resolving controversies between political and juridical claims.

Course content
International relations, theoretical paradigms:
- Classical realism & Structural realism;
- Institutionlism;
- Liberal theory;
- Constructivism;
- Transnational legal process;
- Critical legal theory.
International law:
- Political question doctrine.
International practice:
- Juridical process & judicial interventions;
- The role of the Legal Advisor.

Form of tuition
The course calls for close reading of advanced texts, regular written analysis of those texts in the form of short-answer questions, discussion following lectures, and paper. The learning objectives are broad knowledge and critical engagement with the complicated interrelationship between law & politics in the international system. The reading and writing assignments are necessary to broaden knowledge, regular participation and the final paper will contribute to and ultimately reflect critical engagement.

A maximum of 40 students can participate in the course. Question and answer sessions are compulsory.

Type of assessment
The course will be assessed by the following components:
- Paper(s).
- In-class participation.
Course reading
- Hans Morgenthau, Politics Among Nations, selected readings.
- ICJ Advisory Opinions and select separate opinions: from reader.

Transnational Law in Social Context

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Course objective
This course focuses on transnational law in its broader social context. The contextual approach of the course entails that students are not merely taught about the development and application of specific legal regimes in European or international law, but that they are also encouraged to explore the ways in which these laws interact and in which these laws shape social reality. By addressing the institutional, social and political factors that shape transnational law, and vice versa, the course contributes to a fuller understanding of implications of a multilevel legal order. As such, this course requires students to reflect upon law in a broader social context, and will be particularly useful for anyone who aspires a career in academia, research, litigation, or as a policy maker, judge, civil servant, or with an NGO at the national, European, and international levels.

Course content
Transnational problems such as environmental pollution, climate change, cross-border crime and terrorism, social and global injustice, and migration exemplify that contemporary social reality is ever less determined by national borders. The result is that the legal regulation of these issues increasingly occurs on a transnational level – social reality is increasingly governed by overlapping and intersecting legal orders. This course focusses on this multilevel legal configuration and its implications for social reality by paying attention to a range of subjects such as: human rights law and multinational corporations, the regulation of human mobility in a globalising world, and the ways in which international and European law is mobilized by social movements while pursuing social and political change. With regard to all these subjects, emphasis will be on the ways in which EU law and international relate to each other, and the ways in which law shapes social reality and vice versa.

**Form of tuition**
The student will be expected to participate actively in this course. This will be achieved by requiring them to engage actively with the prescribed literature, i.e. by writing a book review, or preparing short presentations.

Participation in the lectures and tutorials is compulsory.

**Type of assessment**
The course will be assessed by the following components:

- Paper(s).
- Assignment(s).

**Course reading**
To be announced on Blackboard.