



Module Specification

International Criminal Law

Version: 2024-25, v1.0, 11 Dec 2023

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Part 1: Information

Module title: International Criminal Law

Module code: UJGU9B-15-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2024-25

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: College of Business and Law

School: CBL Bristol Law School

Partner institutions: None

Field: Law Postgraduate (Programmes)

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: International criminal law is studied at the intersection of a number of subfields of international law, namely: international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and (general) public international law. The module also builds on prior knowledge of the general principles of criminal law, including the elements of legality, fault, and modes of liability. International criminal law puts the focus on the rules and principles that assign individual criminal responsibility for breaches of international law. The 'core crimes' of genocide, crimes against humanity, war

crimes, and the crime of aggression are the most prominent examples of crimes under international law. Other crimes under international law (slavery, piracy, terrorism, transnational organised crime, and so on) can also be studied as part of international criminal law, but in this module the emphasis is on the 'core crimes'. There are two reasons for this: First, the core crimes fall within the substantive jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The module is designed to critically analyse the Rome Statute of the ICC, a comprehensive legal instrument with significant global reach. Second, the core crimes are often described as the most serious crimes under international law and many states have incorporated these crimes into their domestic criminal law. It thus makes sense to study the criminalisation, prevention, and suppression of these crimes not only at the international level (notably by way of ICC jurisdiction) but also at the domestic level. The module therefore includes national case studies to illustrate the domestic application of international criminal law. Students will be expected to take a critical, interactive approach and to engage with the practical aspects of the functioning of international criminal law, including aspects such as the drafting of module indictments at the ICC.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The module aims to provide students with the essential elements of international criminal law through a combination of lectures, small group workshops, and a comprehensive core crime situation case study scenario (scenario analysis, drafting of prosecutorial memoranda and model indictments). The module aims to provide both a descriptive account of the general principles and special part (core crimes) of international criminal law as well as offer scope for advanced evaluation and critique of key features of modern international criminal law. It focuses on independent, practical, and group-based learning.

Outline syllabus: The module will cover topics such as:

- Sources of international criminal law
- Principles of jurisdiction
- International criminal courts and tribunals
- The domestic application of international criminal law
- Post-atrocity justice and alternatives to criminal prosecutions
- General principles of international criminal law

- War crimes
- Crimes against humanity
- Genocide
- The crime of aggression

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The teaching and learning strategy for the LLM programme emphasises a student-centred approach developed within smaller groups in class and focused on practical learning. To make the best use of the taught sessions, students are expected to engage with a wide range of primary and secondary international criminal law sources, to further their knowledge by reading the designated preparatory work in advance.

The module is designed for delivery through a combination of interactive lectures and workshops. The lectures will communicate the relevant key concepts, principles, theories and approaches, as well as including opportunities for student engagement, such as interactive discussions and real-time quizzes. Workshops will provide a discussion forum in which students are expected to examine, raise, critically assess, and defend contrasting theoretical and conceptual perspectives in class. The workshops will include group work activities, with a focus on the practical application of the law to real-world situations (such as atrocity crime situations). Examples of group activities are legal debates, simulations, practical exercises, and peer learning. Workshops will also include specific support to prepare students for the assessments. In addition to the lectures and workshops, students will take part in a 4-hour group situation analysis and model indictment drafting (i.e., practical class). This exercise will require students to represent an assigned state actor (referral state) or non-governmental organisation and the Office of the ICC Prosecutor, working in groups, to analyse an atrocity crime situation and to draft memoranda and a model indictment for purposes of a case before the ICC.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Ability to synthesise, analyse, evaluate, and interpret a variety of sources of international criminal law, and apply these sources to legal problems

MO2 Ability to utilise analytical and forensic skills for application at international criminal law practice

MO3 Debate and critique the relative merits and demerits of the international criminal justice system at both the international and domestic levels

MO4 Ability to engage in reflective learning and use this to demonstrate skill development

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 128 hours

Face-to-face learning = 22 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/FD68B2FF-6C70-AA1A-294E-2462680C5F61.html?lang=en) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/FD68B2FF-6C70-AA1A-294E-2462680C5F61.html?lang=en>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment strategy is based on the skills required to work in the field of international criminal law. This includes developing a detailed knowledge of the substantive, procedural and jurisdictional aspects of the international criminal justice system and further deploying them in collaborative but also adversarial contexts.

Formative assessment opportunities will be provided in workshops throughout the module, as will extensive guidance and support on how specifically to approach the summative assessment for this module, which is a written assignment.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Written coursework essay (max 2500 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Written coursework essay (maximum 2500 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

International Law and Security LLM 2024-25