



## **Module Specification**

### **Conflict and Security Law**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Conflict and Security Law

**Module code:** UJGU99-30-M

**Level:** Level 7

**For implementation from:** 2024-25

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**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:** Conflict and security law is understood as the laws relating to military, human, and environmental security, thus encompassing topics such as the use of force, large-scale violations of human rights, armed conflicts, and post-conflict reconstruction. The module will cover in the three legal regimes that pertain to conflict and security law: 1) before a conflict: the use of force and collective security (jus ad bellum), 2) during the conflict: international humanitarian law (jus in bello), and 3) after the conflict: the laws applicable in a post-conflict situation (jus post

bellum). The module will use contemporary examples to illustrate how the law applies and works in practice.

The aim of this module is to sharpen students' ability to critically assess and apply international law to complex contemporary situations relating to conflict and security, help them navigate the political, economic and social context of international law, and support them in becoming global citizens.

**Features:** This module is grounded in the field-based and contextual expertise of the staff, and informed by their academic research.

**Educational aims:** The aims of this module are:

- to develop the intellectual skills of coherent description, synthesis, logical analysis and criticism in relation to a broad range of materials.
- to enhance written and oral communication skills.
- to prepare for employment through the development of transferable skills such as the ability to make critical judgements, to solve problems within the parameters of the law and to work independently and with others.

**Outline syllabus:** The module will cover topics such as:

- Contextual introduction to the concepts, actors, and legal and institutional framework
- The prohibition of the use of force and its exceptions
- Collective security
- The characterisation of armed conflict and participants in armed conflict
- The conduct of hostilities and means and methods of warfare
- Peacekeeping
- Post-conflict nation- and statebuilding, and transitional peace and justice mechanisms

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** The teaching and learning strategy emphasises a student-centred approach developed within smaller groups in class. Examples of group activities are discussions, legal debates, simulations, practical exercises, mootings, and peer learning. Some of these activities will be supported by the use of

interactive technology. To make the best use of the sessions, the students are expected to prepare and engage with a wide range of primary and secondary sources, to further their knowledge by reading, for example, newspapers, academic papers and blogs, and carry out the required work.

The module is designed for delivery through a combination of lectorials, seminars and workshops. The lectorials will communicate the relevant key concepts, principles, theories and approaches. Whenever possible guest speakers will be invited to offer a wider range of perspectives on the subject. Seminars are based on preparation and participation; they are designed to act as a place for discussion in which students are expected to examine, raise, critically assess and defend contrasting theoretical and conceptual points of view on controversial issues in class. The aim of the workshops is to give students the opportunity to practise the law, i.e., apply the law to contemporary facts and situations, to hone analytical and practical skills, as well as an opportunity to prepare for the assignment.

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

**MO1** understand and appreciate the full range of factors and, in particular, power asymmetries, colonial legacies and violence, that contribute to the cycle of conflict.

**MO2** synthesise, analyse, evaluate and interpret a variety of sources of international and national law relevant to conflict and security.

**MO3** apply both individually and as a group international law concepts and principles to complex scenarios with a view to drawing reasoned and arguable conclusions.

**MO4** develop both individually and as a group solutions to complex situations that are practical, realistic, culturally sensitive and within the parameters of the law.

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 256 hours

Face-to-face learning = 44 hours

Total = 300

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/968A95D6-D98F-CE8E-5C71-EC624511276B.html?lang=en&login=1>

## Part 4: Assessment

**Assessment strategy:** The assessment strategy is based on the skills required to work in the security and conflict context: working in teams; synthesising large amounts of complex, unstructured and sometimes contradictory information; applying the law to concrete situations; developing solutions to complex problems that comply with international law; presenting in writing and orally core arguments supporting a specific solution.

Accordingly, the first assignment is a synthesis note and the second assignment is an oral presentation based on a real or fictional scenario.

Formative assessment opportunities are provided in seminars and workshops throughout the module.

### Assessment tasks:

#### Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: The students are required to write a synthesis note (based on a range of reports) using a template.

Weighting: 30 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

#### Presentation (First Sit)

Description: 30 minute group oral presentation.

Weighting: 70 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Written Assignment (Resit)**

Description: The students are required to write a synthesis note (based on a range of reports) using a template.

Weighting: 30 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

**Presentation (Resit)**

Description: 10 minute individual oral presentation.

Weighting: 70 %

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