



universität
wien

LL.M. in International Law

University of Vienna

School of Law

LL.M. in International Law

Winter Semester 2023/2024

Course Title: Research Seminar – Law of the ILC

Professor: August Reinisch

I. Course Description and Objectives

This seminar will address various topical issues in international law, as they are currently debated in the International Law Commission. Students will have to prepare short research papers which will be discussed and evaluated in class. The seminar aims at providing course participants with the required skills and knowledge for the preparation of a master thesis in the International Legal Studies program. Participants will have the unique opportunity to discuss issues currently debate in the International Law Commission with one of its members.

II. Course Outline

This course will track the specific topics currently discussed and likely to be discussed (in the near future) by the ILC. Other related topics may be added during the semester.

The course will be sequenced as a number of meetings during which the participants should be able to exchange their research experiences throughout the entire semester. The following are the main topics for research:

1. Peremptory norms of general international law (*jus cogens*)
2. Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts
3. Succession of States in respect of State responsibility
4. Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction
5. General Principles of Law
6. Sea-level rise in relation to international law
7. Settlement of international disputes to which international organizations are parties
8. Prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea
9. Subsidiary means for the determination of rules of international law



III. Basic Texts

As a starting point for almost all research issues the main international law treatises should be consulted. Among them are:

J. Crawford, *Brownlie's Principles of Public International Law*, 9th ed. (Oxford University Press, 2019).

Paola Gaeta, Jorge E. Viñuales, and Salvatore Zappalá, *Cassese's International Law*, 3rd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2020).

M. Shaw, *International Law*, 9th ed. (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

IV. Recommended Internet Sites

ILC: <http://legal.un.org/ilc/>

Peace Palace: <http://www.ppl.nl/>

ASIL: <http://www.asil.org/>

MPIL: http://www.mpil.de/ww/en/pub/library/catalogues_databases.cfm

IDI: <http://www.idi-iil.org/>

ILA: www.ila-hq.org

V. Assessment Method

A. There will be no final examination. Instead, the course assessment will be based on the research papers handed in during the semester. The papers will be worth 70% of the final course mark.

B. Class participation is expected. It will be worth 30% of the final course mark.