Course Objectives

This course aims at providing students with a basic knowledge of public international law in order to enable them to: 1) understand the main features of the international legal system and 2) autonomously and critically evaluate the major issues and events in contemporary international relations.

Course Content Summary

The course, taught in English, is addressed to Italian and foreign students. It aims at analysing the essential features of public international law. The three fundamental legal functions – law-making, law-determination and law-enforcement – will be examined, giving special attention to the transformations of the international community in the era of globalization.

In particular, the course will focus on the following topics: structural features and historical evolution of the international legal system; legal subjects: States and non-state actors, the international personality of international organizations; sources of international law: custom, general principles, treaties, binding acts of international organizations; the relationship between international law and municipal law; settlement of international disputes: diplomatic and judicial means, the International Court of Justice; internationally wrongful acts and the law of international responsibility; the use of force in international relations; individuals and international law: diplomatic protection, international protection of human rights, international crimes. Overview of some substantive regimes relevant to: immunities of States and their organs, the law of the sea, the international protection of the environment.

Methodology and Textbooks

The main textbook is:

Carlo FOCARELLI, International Law (Cheltenham/Northampton: Edward Elgar 2019), chapters 1, 2 (sections 1 to 6A), 3, 4, 5 (sections 1, 2 and 4), 6 (Section 5), 7 (sections 2 and 3), 8 (section 1), 9 (sections 1A, 1B and 2).

**Students are required to register in the e-learning page of the course:**
[https://elearning.uniroma1.it/](https://elearning.uniroma1.it/).

The course includes lectures and class discussions about case studies. Legal materials (treaties, resolutions, official declarations, decisions of international courts, etc.) and suggestions for additional readings will be available on the course e-learning platform.

Students may also consult the website of the International Court of Justice (www.icj-cij.org) to access full texts of the ICJ’s judgments and advisory opinions and the website of the United Nations (www.un.org/documents) for any UN official document.

**Assessment Methods**

Students are expected to attend lectures and contribute to class discussions by reading the relevant materials.

The exam will consist in a written paper. Candidates will be required to answer two or three questions in about 1 hour or 1 hour and a half.

Students having passed the written exam will be allowed to ask for an optional oral exam to improve their final grade.

Owing to the pandemic emergency and the ensuing restrictions, the final exam might possibly consist in a colloquium only.

To determine the final grade, attendance and active participation will be taken into consideration.

At the end of the course, attending students will be given the possibility to submit a written opinion on a legal question, which will be taken into account too.

**Office Hours**

Maria Irene Papa (mariairene.papa@uniroma1.it), room 8, IV floor: Tuesday, at 4 p.m. Students are kindly requested to send an email to schedule an appointment.

Mario Gervasi (mario.gervasi@uniroma1.it), room 11, IV floor: Monday, at 11 a.m. Students are kindly requested to send an email to schedule an appointment.