Maria Curie – Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland

Faculty of Political Science and Journalism

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Public International Law

Spring semester 2024/2025
- Syllabus -

Field of study: International Relations **Course type:** compulsory course

Assessment methods:

- Lectures: end-of-term test exam (20 multiple choice questions) and one case study.
- Classes: end-of-term test exam (20 multiple choice questions) or class participation (points).

- Classes -

Class I-II. The definition, concept and history of international law

- **1.** Law and politics in the world community.
- **2.** The role of force.
- **3.** International system.
- **4.** The function of politics.
- **5.** Historical development of international law:
 - early origins,
 - the Middle Ages and the Renaissance,
 - the founders of modern international law,
 - positivism and naturalism,
 - the nineteenth century,
 - the twentieth century,
 - communist approaches to international law,
 - the Third World.
- **6.** The expanding legal scope of international concern.
- 7. Modern theories and interpretations.
- 8. Positive Law and Natural Law.
- 9. New approaches.
- **10.** The fragmentation of international law?

Literature:

M.N. Shaw, *International Law*, Cambridge 2008, pp. 1-68.

Class III-IV. Sources of international law: case studies

Class V-VI. The subjects of international law

- 1. The concept of legal personality.
- 2. State as a subject of international law.

- **3.** The criteria of statehood.
- **4.** The fundamental rights of states.
- **5.** Unitary and federal states.
- **6.** Sui generis territorial entities.
- 7. Insurgents, belligerents and national liberation movements as a subjects of international law.
- **8.** Individuals as a subjects of international law.
- **9.** International organizations as a subjects of international law.
- **10.** The right to self-determination.
- 11. Territorial integrity of states vs. self-determination of peoples.

Literature:

M.N. Shaw, *International Law*, Cambridge 2008, pp. 195-264.

Class VII. Immunities from jurisdiction in international law

- **1.** The concept of state immunity.
- **2.** The absolute and restrictive approach to state immunity.
- 3. International immunities and privileges of Heads of State and members of the Government.
- **4.** The concept of diplomatic immunity.
- **5.** Diplomatic privileges and immunities.
- **6.** Consular privileges and immunities.

Literature:

M.N. Shaw, International Law, Cambridge 2008, pp. 697-777.

Class VIII. Immunities from jurisdiction in international law: case studies

Class IX-X. Territory in international law

- **1.** The concept of territory in international law.
- **2.** Territorial sovereignty.
- **3.** New states and title to territory.
- **4.** The acquisition of additional territory:
 - boundary treaties and boundary awards,
 - accretion,
 - cession,
 - conquest and the use of force,
 - the exercise of effective control,
 - intertemporal law,
 - The role of subsequent conduct: recognition, acquiescence and estoppel.
- **5.** Territorial integrity, self-determination and sundry claims.
- **6.** The doctrine of *uti possidetis*.
- **7.** The law of outer space.
- **8.** The territorial sea:
 - width,
 - juridical nature,
 - right of innocent passage,
 - jurisdiction over foreign ships.
- 9. Internal waters.
- 10. Baselines.
- **11.** Bays.
- 12. Islands.
- **13.** Archipelagic states.
- 14. Contiguous zone.

- 15. Exclusive economic zone.
- 16. Continental shelf.
- 17. High seas.
- 18. International straits.

Literature:

M.N. Shaw, *International Law*, Cambridge 2008, pp. 487-614.

Class XI. Territory in international law: case studies

Class XII. The settlement of disputes in international law

- 1. Diplomatic methods of dispute settlement:
 - negotiation,
 - good offices and mediation,
 - inquiry,
 - conciliation.
- **2.** International institutions and dispute settlement:
 - regional organisations,
 - universal organisations,
- **3.** Arbitration.
- 4. Permanent international courts.

Literature:

M.N. Shaw, *International Law*, Cambridge 2008, pp. 1010-1056.

Class XIII. The settlement of disputes in international law: case studies

XIV. International humanitarian law

- **1.** The origin and development of the international humanitarian law.
- **2.** The scope of protection under the Geneva Conventions system:
 - wounded and sick,
 - prisoners of war,
 - protection of civilians and occupation.
- **3.** The conduct of hostilities.
- **4.** Armed conflicts in international law:
 - international armed conflict
 - non-international armed conflict
- **5.** Enforcement of humanitarian law.

Literature:

M.N. Shaw, International Law, Cambridge 2008, pp. 1167-1203.

XV. International humanitarian law: case studies