Course Description

Armed conflict – and international security more broadly – have been traditionally seen as areas where anarchy prevails. Under anarchy, states threaten or resort to force based on their national interests, released from legal constraints; rules and regulations that aim to restrain the use of force are merely scraps of paper. Yet contemporary international reality is at odds with this traditional view. States increasingly employ international law and institutions to prevent, regulate, and punish the use of force. Law and institutions seek to set acceptable limits to the pursuit of security interests and the recourse to arms. In some cases international law fails to achieve this goal; yet in other cases it does have important effects on the outbreak, dynamic, and consequences of armed conflicts. In this course we will consider why, when, and how international law affects warfare. We will do so by addressing a range of substantive issues, from international humanitarian law to war crime tribunals to arms control to terrorism. The course will conclude with some of the recent challenges to international law, such as the growing use of private security
companies and child soldiers. Throughout the course, we will use the Russia-Ukraine war as a contemporary illustration of the various issues.

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**Course Goals**

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**Grading Requirements**

1. Class attendance.
2. Reading the materials assigned for each week. Students are expected to attend class having done the readings.
3. Taking an active part in the simulations.
4. Paper. The paper will examine a contemporary case related to the course’s themes in light of the existing scholarly literature. A one–page description of your intended topic should be submitted for the instructor’s approval by December 22. Detailed instructions will be provided separately.

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**Reading List**

**November 3: International Law and the Use of Force: The UN Charter**


November 10: International Humanitarian Law (I)


November 17: Guest Lecture by Professor Thomas Risse

November 24: International Humanitarian Law (II)

December 1: Collective security, UN Security Council


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**December 8: Library guidance session; Simulation**

**Simulation:** Security Council's response to the war in Ukraine.

Instructions for the simulation will be posted on Moodle

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**December 15: Humanitarian intervention**


James Pattison. 2021. The International Responsibility to Protect in a Post-Liberal
December 22: Peacekeeping

Paper Topic Due


December 29: Arms control


Rebecca David Gibbons. 2020. Supply to Deny: The Benefits of Nuclear Assistance for


January 5: Alliances


January 12: Individual Criminal Responsibility


Geoff Dancy and Eric Wiebelhaus-Brahm. 2018. The Impact of Criminal Prosecutions


**January 19: Terrorism**


**January 26: Simulation:** Should Israel Join the International Criminal Court?

Instructions for the simulation will be posted on Moodle

**Private Military Companies; Illicit Trade**


Beth Simmons, Paulette Lloyd, and Brandon Stewart. 2018. The Global Diffusion of Law: