



INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW

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Course description

The course offers an introduction to the most important aspects of international criminal law, whose aim is to end the “culture of impunity” regarding the most serious offenders, who had committed one of the core international crimes; to contribute to establish open societies based on democratic values; and to raise awareness to the fundamental human rights.

The course gives an overview of the history and development of international criminal law and its most important principles developed by international criminal courts.

After the introductory lectures, each of the core international crimes: genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity will be analyzed in detail, and the last lectures of the course will concentrate on the institutional basis of international criminal justice by introducing the different forms of international criminal courts.

Course outline

1. Sources and history of international criminal law I.
2. Sources and history of international criminal law II.
3. General principles of international criminal law (General part I.)
4. General principles of international criminal law (General part II.)
5. Genocide
6. War crimes
7. Crimes against humanity
8. Further international crimes, the problematic of immunity



9. International Criminal Tribunals: the ad-hoc Criminal Tribunals of the United Nations (ICTY and ICTR)
10. International Criminal Tribunals: the permanent International Criminal Court
11. International Criminal Tribunals: the hybrid international criminal courts
12. Exam

Assessment

- regular attendance of the lecture
- Exam: written exam on the last lecture based on the recommended literature, PPT slides and handouts. Students may choose to write an essay of maximum 30.000 characters instead of the written examination on a topic approved by one of the lecturers.

Recommended Literature

Antonio Cassese and Paola Gaeta: Cassese's International Criminal Law (2013).