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**MODULE SPECIFICATION**

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| **Name of Module** | **International Humanitarian Law** |
| **Parent School/Dept** | Political Science/International Relations |
| **Programmes where module is offered** | LLM International Law |
| **Status** (compulsory, optional, free choice) | Compulsory | **Pre-Requisite Modules or Qualifications** | Recommended: Successful Completion of all 1st semester Modules |
| **FHEQ Level** | **7** | **Unit Value** | **8 ECTS** | **Module Code** (where applicable) | IL509 | **Module Coordinator** | Francesco de Sanctis |
| **Semester Taught** | **Spring** | **Applicable From** | SEMESTER/YEAR: 2nd semester, 1st year  |
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| **Educational Aims of the Module** |
| Students on this module will critically analyse the four Geneva conventions and their additional protocols, as well as the Hague laws. This module will consider: the historical development of restraints on the conduct of international and internal armed conflicts; the distinction between rules governing recourse to armed coercion (ius ad bellum) and those governing how it should be fought (ius in bello); the protection afforded by the 1949 Geneva Convention and the 1977 Protocols to combatants and non-combatants; the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); and the relationship of International Humanitarian Law to other areas of public international law such as human rights, refugee and international criminal law. After completing this module, students will critically understand the relationships between International Human Rights Law and Human Rights Law, the impact of International humanitarian law on the relations between subjects of international law, the impact of International Humanitarian law on the protection of individuals in times of warfare and the significance of International Humanitarian Law in world politics, international relations and the prosecution of criminals. Students will also gain further theoretical knowledge and have the opportunity to apply practical skills in the area of International Humanitarian Law.  |
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| **Module Outline/Syllabus** |
| 1. International humanitarian law: notion, development, sources, *ius in bello* and *ius ad bellum*
2. Applicability of International humanitarian law, Relationship between International humanitarian law and Human rights law
3. International armed conflicts and applicable International humanitarian law
4. The beginning and the end of an international armed conflict, legal consequences of war
5. Non-international armed conflicts and applicable International humanitarian law
6. Rules concerning hostilities and warfare
7. Limits of warfare obligatory in all armed conflicts
8. The scope of protection under the Geneva conventions system: The protection of the wounded, sick, shipwrecked and prisoners of war
9. The scope of protection under the Geneva conventions system: The protection of civilians
10. Invasion and occupation
11. Neutrality
12. Enforcement of International Humanitarian Law
13. The role and function of the International Committee of the Red Cross
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| **Student Engagement Hours** |
| *Type*  | ***Number per term***  | ***Duration of each***  | ***Total Time*** |
| *Lectures* | 13 | 4 hours | 52 |
| *Seminars* | 13 | 2 hours | 26 |
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| *Total Guided/Independent Learning Hours* | **122** |
| *Total Contact Hours:*  | **78** |
| **Total Engagement Hours** | **200** |
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| **Assessment Method Summary** |
| ***Type***  | ***Number required*** | ***Duration*** | ***Weighting*** | ***Timing/******Submission Deadline*** |
| Mid-semester test (unseen written test in class - case analysis) | 1 | 1 hour | 10% | Mid-semester |
| Written Assignment (essay) | 1 | 2000 words | 20% | Week 10 |
| Assignment: Participation in the workshop on selected topic of contemporary debates and dilemmas in International Humanitarian Law (written legal policy paper (individually) and written recommendations (interactive group work) concerning codification and progressive development of rules of International Humanitarian Law)  | Each participant makes 1 legal policy paper including analysis of legal efficacy of International humanitarian Law under specific circumstances, and 1 set of group recommendations | 1500 words per policy paper, 200 words on recommendations | 20 % | Week 13 |
| Written Examination (final exam) | 1 | 3 hours | 50% | End of semester |

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| **Module Outcomes** |
| ***Intended Learning Outcomes:***1. Display mastery of specialised knowledge and understanding of the nature, significance and sources of international humanitarian law;
2. Demonstrate a clear, in depth understanding of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, the relationship between international humanitarian law and human rights law, including the relationship between *ius in bello* and *ius ad bellum*
3. Demonstrate in-depth understanding of the rules of international humanitarian law, including the difference between international and non-international armed conflicts, a critical awareness of current developmentsand problems in the area of International Humanitarian Law.
4. Demonstrable ability to evaluate sources and case studies concerning the protection of combatants and civilians in times of warfare, as well as enforcement of International Humanitarian Law and of the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the law and the relevant jurisprudence, at an advanced level and demonstrate critical analysis of scholarship in the area of International Humanitarian Law
 | → | ***Teaching/Learning Strategy:***1. Lectures provide the core information and seminars build on this in greater detail. Seminars also provide a platform for group discussion and participation. Tutors will set assignments to test student knowledge, and guide them through independent study. (ILO:1-5)
2. Group discussions on issues arising during lectures and on specific topics will offer students the possibility to express and enhance understanding and knowledge during discussions in class (ILO:1-5)
3. Short presentations in class on previously assigned topic will help students to obtain additional in-depth knowledge on specific topics (ILO: 2,3,4)
4. Students will engage in in-class debates on short hypothetical cases and/or on a long, complex hypothetical case under supervision of the module tutor (ILO: 2-5)
5. Workshop participation under moderation of course tutor (ILO: 1-5)
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| → | ***Assessment Strategy:***1. Written examination: final exam (ILO: 1-5)
2. Mid-semester test –case analysis (ILO:1-3)
3. Group participation (group discussion, debates, workshop participation) (ILO: 1-5)
4. Set assignments: essay and workshop documents

(ILO: 1-5)  |
| ***Practical Skills:***1. Recognise and critically evaluate scholarship and case studies in the area of International Humanitarian Law
2. Employ advanced skills to conduct independent legal research and present the results in a coherent and clear format
3. Ability to assess the efficacy of legal norms, form legal policy papers in International Humanitarian Law and form recommendations concerning legal policy
4. Advanced ability to search and use specialised on-line legal resources of jurisprudence in international law
5. Advanced ability to interpret and apply rules of International Humanitarian law to a given set of facts and form a clear argument.
 | → | ***Teaching/Learning Strategy:***1. Lectures will provide the core information and seminars and group work will further develop practical skills in analysis and information retrieval. (PS. 1-4)
2. Short presentations in class on previously assigned topics will help students to demonstrate legal presentation and argument (PS: 1-5)
3. group debates on short cases under the supervision of the module tutor will help students to obtain additional guidance when forming legal arguments (PS: 1,2,4,5)
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| → | ***Assessment Strategy:***1. Written examination: final exam, mid-semester test

(PS: 1,2,4,5)1. Group participation (group discussion, in-class debates, work shop participation, presentation) (PS: 1,2)
2. Set assignment: essay (PS: 1-3)
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| ***Transferable Skills:***1. Ability to access and assimilate information from a variety of sources
2. Communication skills: written and oral
3. Ability to work independently and in a group
4. Ability to present reasoned arguments for decisions
5. Critical thinking skills
 | → | ***Teaching/Learning Strategy:***1. Seminars provide a forum for discussion and develop skills in communication, information retrieval and presentation. (TS: 1-4)
2. Lectures enable students to question and obtain information and additional guidance in learning and independent research (TS: 1-5)
3. Short presentations on specific previously assigned topics in class (TS: 1-5)
4. Workshop and debate participation (TS: 1-5)
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| → | ***Assessment Strategy:***1. Written examination: final exam, mid-semester test

(TS: 1,4,5)1. Set assignments: essay and workshop (TS: 1-5)
2. Seminar participation : group discussion, in-class debates on short case(s), workshop documents and participation (TS: 1-5)
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| **Key Texts and/or other learning materials** |
| **Key Text:**1. Fleck, D., 2013. *The Handbook of International Humanitarian Law.* 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2. Blank, L. R., 2013. *International Law and Armed Conflict: Fundamental Principles.* New York: Aspen.

**Other learning materials:**1. Thuerer, D., 2011. *International Humanitarian Law: Theory, Practice, Context.* Leiden: Brill.
2. Gill, T. and Fleck, D., 2011. *The Handbook of the International Law of Military Operations.* Reprint ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
3. Lubell, N., 2011. *Extraterritorial Use of Force against Non-State Actors (Oxford Monographs in International Law).* Reprint ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
4. Melzer, N., 2009. *Targeted Killing in International Law (Oxford Monographs in International Law).* Oxford: Oxford University Press.
5. Shaw,M.N., 2008. *International Law.* 6th ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
6. Crawford, J. 2013. *Brownlie’s Principles of International Law.* 8th ed. New York: Oxford University Press.
7. Vitzthum, W.G. ed., 2007. *Voelkerrecht*. 4th ed. Berlin: De Gruyter.
8. International Committee of the Red Cross, 2013. *International Humanitarian Law Database*, (on-line). Available at www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/misc/treaties-database-introduction-070606.htm (Accessed 15 July 2013)
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| **Please note:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the module and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module and programme can be found in the departmental or programme handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed annually by the University of Buckingham and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency. |
| **Date of Production:** |  |
| **Date approved by School Learning and Teaching Committee** |  |
| **Date approved by School Board of Study** |  |
| **Date approved by University Learning and Teaching Committee** |  |
| **Date of Annual Review:** |  |