UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Refugee Law

2223-4-A5810212

Learning objectives

The aim is to provide students with practical knowledge of international refugee law, based on the study of relevant legal materials, including case law, and direct experience built on **interviews of, and interactions with, refugees** and relevant **experts from the field**, such as **crew members** of search and rescue boats (e.g., SeaWatch, Mediterranea) active in the Central Mediterranean Sea and **lawyers** who brought relevant lawsuits before national and international courts. The course strongly encourages participation by students who wish to take advantage of the opportunity to enhance their capability in expressing themselves in legal English and communicate with people of different nationalities and backgrounds on topics of utmost relevance in the current international scenario... but within the comfortable setting of a small class. As these language and relational skills are required in any further development of the law student's career, and crucial in all professional settings, the course is particularly appropriate for both **Italian students** and **Erasmus students**.

Contents

The course will consider a range of legal instruments relevant to refugee protection, including from international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international migration law, the law of the sea, and international and transnational criminal law. The relevant case law will be analyzed, and practical exercises will be conducted in class, with students divided in groups under the supervision of the lecturers and relevant experts.

Detailed program

Based on the legal materials and case law mentioned above, the course will focus on:

- the sources of international refugee law, starting with the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol;

- the scope of refugee protection;
- the scope of refugee rights;
- the end of refugeehood;
- accountability for displacement and refugee rights violations;
- relevant judicial procedures;
- the specific case of *refoulement* at sea.
  The course will entail direct interactions with refugees and operative members of relevant organizations.

Prerequisites

Having attended the course in public international law (2nd year).

Teaching methods

Lectures with the active involvement of students, who will be working in groups on the relevant legal instruments and case law.

Assessment methods

The exam will consist of only one question cast by ballot among a list of questions **uploaded in advance** on the e-learning page. The candidate will know the questions in advance and prepare a short presentation for each of them. The commission will decide which question will be presented by the candidate on the day of the exam.

The exam takes into account the following elements:

- knowledge of the substance;
- consistency and completeness in the exposition;
- correct use of legal terminology.

The grade is not subject to discussion or negotiation.

The student may decide to withdraw from the exam before or immediately after the grade has been stated.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

A number of papers and the relevant legal texts are collected in a syllabus that will be uploaded on the e-learning page.

Sustainable Development Goals

REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS