UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

International Humanitarian Law

2627-5-A5810214

Learning objectives

Upon completing this course, students should:

- Know and understand the nature and sources of international humanitarian law, as well as have a critical understanding of its fundamental concepts;
- Be able to identify and critically assess the implications of those concepts in the substantive exposition of various issues of contemporary international and non-international armed conflicts;
- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of various international legal instruments relating to the conduct of hostilities and the protection of vulnerable categories of persons and the environment, as well as of the legal regime and relevant practice related to the prohibition on the use of certain weapons; and
- Be able to apply the knowledge so acquired to specific issues arising in connection with armed conflicts.

Contents

The course will provide an overview and analysis of the basic rules and principles that regulate the conduct of armed conflict, with particular attention to the protection of vulnerable persons, to the means and methods of warfare and to the question of accountability for violations of the rules of international humanitarian law.

Detailed program

In particular, the following topics will be addressed:

- Sources and institutions
- International armed conflicts and internal armed conflicts

- The conduct of hostilities
- The protection of vulnerable persons
- The protection of the natural environment during armed conflict
- The means and methods of warfare:
- The legal regime for restricted and prohibited weapons
- Accountability for the violation of the rules of international humanitarian law (notions)

Prerequisites

To have passed the international law exam

Teaching methods

The lessons will take place in lecture mode and in person and will be held in English.

Assessment methods

Oral exam: interview (open questions) on the topics addressed during the lessons, and on the textbook.
The oral exam consists of an interview on the topics covered in the programme and indicated in the recommended texts; the aim is to test the ability to understand and present clearly and personally all the key topics and aspects of the subject.
The criteria for assessing the competences indicated are based on knowledge and understanding of the content of the discipline and on the ability to apply the acquired knowledge through personal reworking.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Reading materials will be distributed during the lectures.

The textbook for the course and the exam is the following: E. Crawford and A. Pert, 'International Humanitarian Law', third ed., Cambridge University Press, 2024.

Sustainable Development Goals

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS