Course description

The course replicates the tutorial method used at Oxford University to educate students studying law.

Each student studies selected topics in a designated field of law under the direct supervision of an English law professor and legal scholar (the tutor) with expertise in the field. The professors and their subjects of expertise are identified below. When registering for the program, students select the fields of law in which they are interested. Every effort is made to give them their first choice.

A student meets with his or her tutor five times during the program (an average of once each week). In advance of each tutorial, the tutor poses one or more topics or questions on which the student is to write an essay (generally about 2,000 words) and provides the student with an extensive relevant bibliography of required or recommended readings. During each tutorial, students will discuss the assigned topic or questions with the tutor and will be asked to present (sometimes read) and defend their essay. Some tutors prefer to meet with the student one-on-one; these tutorials last approximately 1-1/4 hour. Other tutors prefer to meet with students one-on-two; these tutorials last approximately 2 hours.

Tutorials

Tutorials are offered in the following ten subjects.

1. International Criminal Law

This tutorial traces the historical origins of international criminal law and its sources, and its development through the jurisprudence and practice of various international criminal tribunals, from Nuremberg to the International Criminal Court in The Hague. The tutorial introduces students to the nature of the principal international crimes (genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity), as well as forms of criminal participation and individual criminal responsibility. Tutor: Susan Lamb.

2. Transitional Justice

This tutorial explores various types of justice initiatives available to societies emerging from armed conflict or authoritarian regimes, seeking to redress historic injustices or to achieve national reconciliation. It studies responses such as truth and reconciliation commissions, commissions of enquiry, initiatives aimed at memorialization, and critically examines the supposed tension between peace and justice. It also examines mechanisms designed to ensure that
the impact and legacy of international criminal tribunals extend beyond the relatively few cases these tribunals can themselves adjudicate and the extent to which these can instead to inspire local justice responses or contribute to the reinvigoration of national justice systems affected by armed conflict or suffering from other systemic weaknesses. Tutor: Susan Lamb.

3. **Comparative Media Law**

This tutorial will explore topics in the exploding area of media law and policy throughout the world. Tutors: Laurence Lustgarten (two sessions) and Paolo Cavaliere (three sessions).

4. **Comparative Property Law**

This tutorial will explore similarities and differences between the law of real property in England and that of the U.S. Tutor: Roger Smith.

5. **Comparative Tort Law**

This tutorial will explore similarities and differences between the tort law of England and that of the U.S. Tutor: Roger Smith.

6. **Law of Armed Conflict**

This tutorial examines a range of topics within this major area of international law, including the rules as to how warfare is to be conducted, the displacement of persons during armed conflict, and the legal protections for injured or captured combatants and civilians. Tutor: Ruvi Ziegler.

7. **International Refugee Law**

This tutorial explores a major area of public international law that regulates an exception to the principles of state sovereignty and migration control. It offers a critical understanding of the international regime of refugee protection by highlighting its virtues and shortcomings. Tutor: Ruvi Ziegler.

8. **Environmental Law**

This tutorial will introduce the legal, economic and social context of environmental regulation. No prior knowledge of U.S. environmental law is required, although students with past experience are welcome. During the tutorial, we will discuss: General theoretical approaches to environmental law, the structure of environmental law within the European Union – highlighting differences and similarities with the United States when relevant; and, a case study of the issue of fuel poverty that illustrates the intersection of environmental, economic and social problems on which environmental law functions. Tutor: Josephine van Zeben.
9. International Law

This tutorial reviews the sources and essential principles of international law, including the pacific settlement of disputes. It will also focus on the responsibility of the state in international law issues. Tutor: Chaloka Beyani.

10. Human Rights and International Law

This tutorial will focus on defining the concept of human rights – their origin and the place of human rights in international law. It will also introduce students to the role of treaties in securing and protecting human rights. Tutor: Chaloka Beyani.

Tutor biographies

Professor Paolo Cavaliere holds a PhD in International Law and Economics (Bocconi University, Italy); LL.M. in Public Law (UCL); Combined Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree in Law (University of Pavia, Italy). Dr. Cavaliere is a lecturer in Digital Media & IT Law at the University of Edinburgh Law School. Prior to joining the University of Edinburgh, Dr. Cavaliere was a researcher at the Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policies of the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies of the University of Oxford, where he has also helped to coordinate the Monroe Price Media Law Moot Court Competition.

Professor Chaloka Beyani teaches International Law and Human Rights at the London School of Economics (LSE). He is a member of both the Centre for the Study of Human Rights and the Centre for Climate Change at LSE. He is also the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons. Dr. Beyani has served as a member of the official Committee of Experts that drafted the Constitution of Kenya.

Professor Susan Lamb is a Professor, Vice Dean and Executive Director of the Centre for International Criminal Justice and International Humanitarian Law at the Jindal Global Law School in India. Prior to joining the JGLS, she had a 17 year career with various United Nations responses to atrocity crimes, serving as a Senior Legal Officer for the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge trials in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, as Chef de Cabinet for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Tanzania and in various capacities for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands. She received her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Law degrees from the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand and undertook doctoral studies at Balliol College, Oxford in the mid 1990s as a Rhodes Scholar. She is admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand.

Professor Laurence Lustgarten is a Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict. He was a Professor Law at the University of Southampton and Warwick Law School, Queen’s University.
Professor Roger J. Smith is a member of the Oxford faculty of law and a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford. He received his B.A. from Cambridge, and his M.A. from both Cambridge and Oxford. He has been a lecturer in law at Birmingham University, a Fellow of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, and a visiting lecturer in law at the University of Melbourne. His research and teaching interests are in the areas of Real Property, Torts, Trust, Company Law, and Taxation.

Professor Josephine van Zeben studied law at the University of Edinburgh and Harvard University. Her work is interdisciplinary, having postgraduate qualifications in law and economics and law and political theory. An important part of her work focuses on climate change mitigation efforts within the European Union, specifically through market-based regulation. At Oxford, she is a fellow of Worcester College where she teaches EU law, Constitutional law and Administrative law. She is also a visiting lecturer at the ETH Zurich where she teaches Environmental law and policy to scientists.

Professor Reuven (Ruvi) Zeigler is a lecturer in law at the University of Reading, Editor-in-Chief of the Refugee LAW Initiative’s Working Paper Series at the School of Advanced Study at the University of London, and Research Associate at the Refugee Studies Centre (RSC). He is also a researcher at the Israel Democracy Institute and participates in the “Constitutional Principles and Their Implementation” project there. In addition he is a frequent contributor to the Oxford Human Rights Hub Blog and other legal blogs. Professor Ziegler, as a visiting researcher at Harvard Law School, was affiliated with the Immigration and Refugee Clinic and its Human Rights program.

Grading

Tutors assign letter grades derived from an evaluation of the quality of essays a student submits, an evaluation of nature and scope of a student’s understanding of a topic, and an evaluation of the student’s discussion of topics during the tutorial sessions.