

Name of university, Name of faculty: Trnava University
Faculty of Law

INFORMATION SHEET OF THE SUBJECT

Code: XNMPb810

Name: International Humanitarian Law

Cover: Department of International Law and European Law

Type of educational activity: Lecture, Practise

Scope of educational activity (in hours):

Weekly: 1/1

For term of study: ZS 23,23/,24

Number of credits: 4

Recommended semester: WT

Study grade:
Bachelor

Method of educational activity: Combined

Recommended semester	Study programme
2.year WT	Law (XDŠBc-PR) Law (XEŠBc-PR-23)
3.year WT	Law (XDŠBc-PR) Law (XEŠBc-PR-23)

Underlie subjects:

Conditions for passing the course:

Method of evaluation: Completion by a continuing assessment

Continuous evaluation: The subject is concluded with a continuous assessment, in the form of a colloquium - a group discussion and analysis of the assigned topic or case, which mainly assesses the student's ability to carry out a legal qualification of the facts, identify relevant sources and apply them to the facts in the context of the case law of international courts, critically analyze the legal situation de lege lata and formulate proposals de lege ferenda. Additionally, students will be tasked to write a paper on the course related topics and to deliver a presentation.

Final evaluation: Completion by a continuing assessment

Finished: By ongoing evaluation.

Learning outcomes:

After successfully completing the course, the student is able to explain and discuss the fundamental concepts, principles and sources of international humanitarian law, including the historical development of the law of armed conflict and the legal framework established by the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions. The student understands the definition and classification of armed conflicts, the relationship between international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and the core principles governing the conduct of hostilities, including the protection of civilians, prisoners of war, and wounded and sick persons. The graduate of the course has the ability to analyse and solve legal problems related to the application of international humanitarian law in different types of armed conflicts, critically assess issues concerning the means and methods of warfare and the law of targeting, and discuss the implementation and enforcement of humanitarian norms. The student is also able to analyse relevant legal practice and case law, including jurisprudence of institutions such as the International Criminal Court and to formulate structured and well-reasoned legal arguments regarding contemporary challenges in international humanitarian law.

Schedule of subject:

1. Historical and general background of international humanitarian law.
2. Definition and classification of armed conflicts.
3. Fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.
4. The relationship between international humanitarian law and human rights law.
5. Types of armed conflicts.
6. Protection of civilians and the law of occupation.
7. Principle of distinction.
8. Prisoners of war.
9. Protection of wounded, sick and shipwrecked.
10. Means and methods of warfare and the law of targeting.
11. Implementation, enforcement and accountability.
12. International humanitarian law and contemporary challenges.

Recommended reading:

Basic recommended literature:

TSAGOURIAS N. – MORRISON A. International Humanitarian Law: Cases, Materials and Commentary. Cambridge University Press, 2018.

CRAWFORD E. – PERT A. International Humanitarian Law. 3rd ed. Cambridge University Press, 2024.

Other recommended legal instruments and documents:

1. Declaration Renouncing the Use, in Time of War, of Explosive Projectiles Under 400 Grammes Weight, Saint Petersburg, 1868.
2. Geneva Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, 1949.
3. Geneva Convention (II) for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, 1949.
4. Geneva Convention (III) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, 1949.
5. Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 1949.
6. Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), 1977.
7. Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II), 1977.
8. Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III), 2005.
9. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to

have Indiscriminate Effects, 1980.
 10. Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I), 1980.
 11. Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II), 1980.
 12. Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III), 1980.
 13. Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV), 1995.
 14. Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as Amended on 3 May 1996 (Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996).
 15. Amendment to Article I of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, 2001.
 16. Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V), 2003.
 17. Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, 1994.
 18. Convention on the Prohibition of Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, 1997.
 19. Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, S/1999/957, 8 September 1999.
 20. Secretary-General's Bulletin, Observance by United Nations forces of international humanitarian law, ST/SGB/1999/13, 6 August 1999.
 21. Convention on Cluster Munitions, 2008.

Language requirements: English

Notes:

Student's workload: 100 hours

Combined study (C, K): 24 hours

Study of materials in Moodle and preparation for the exam: 76 hours

Course evaluation:

Assessed students in total: 0

A	B	C	D	E	FX
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Lecturers:

Tereza Vujošević, lecturer, examiner, instructor

Date of last change: 01.09.2026

Approved by: prof. PhDr. JUDr. Tomáš Gábriš, PhD., LL.M., MA