

# COURSE DETAIL

## PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW

**Country**

United Kingdom - England

**Host Institution**

London School of Economics

**Program(s)**

London School of Economics

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Legal Studies

**UCEAP Course Number**

117

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

PUBLIC INTL LAW

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

6.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

4.00

## **Course Description**

Public international law is traditionally understood as the law governing the coexistence and cooperation between states. This course provides an introduction to the concepts, principles, institutions, history and argumentative structure of this distinctive, and distinctively political, legal order. The aim of the course is to lay the basis for an informed assessment of the contribution, limits and possibilities of international law as a language of, and force in, world affairs. Students begin by asking what kind of legal order we are dealing with (in the particular context of recent challenges to the whole concept of international legality itself). The course then turns to the question of how international legal norms emerge (through custom and treaty) among entities known as sovereign states, in something called an 'international society' (composed also of international organizations, non-governmental organizations, corporations and individuals) and we ask how those states seek to resolve disputes in that (anarchic) order and are held responsible for wrongs they commit. Later in the term, students consider the origins of the system in European colonial arrangements across the modern period and we consider the emancipatory potential of the principle of self-determination as a response to these arrangements. The term ends with seminars on the problem of war in international law. International law increasingly forms part of the law practised in the UK, and an understanding of international law will be important for those interested in foreign affairs, investment arbitration, regulation of AI and other digital technologies, global supply chains, global commodities, climate change, environmental law, refugee and human rights law. The course is a prerequisite for and will be complemented by LL280 Advanced Issues in Public International Law, which will examine specialized regimes of international law.

### **Language(s) of Instruction**

English

### **Host Institution Course Number**

LL279

### **Host Institution Course Title**

PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW

**Host Institution Course Details**

[https://www.lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar2024-2025/courseGuides/LL/2024\\_LL279.htm](https://www.lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar2024-2025/courseGuides/LL/2024_LL279.htm)

**Host Institution Campus**

**Host Institution Faculty**

**Host Institution Degree**

**Host Institution Department**

Law

**Course Last Reviewed**

2025-2026

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