

COURSE DETAIL

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND EMPIRE

Country

France

Host Institution

Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)

Program(s)

Sciences Po Paris

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Legal Studies International Studies

UCEAP Course Number

161

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND EMPIRE

UCEAP Transcript Title

INTL LAW & EMPIRE

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course studies some of the foundational doctrines of contemporary international law, while also equipping students with the tools to critique and question these foundational doctrines. While expounding upon some of the foundational doctrines and facets of international law such as sources, sovereignty, Law of Treaties, state responsibility, jurisdiction, international organizations, use of force, International Humanitarian Law, and International Criminal Law, this course also critically examines the complex and reciprocal relationship between international law and empire. It explores how empire was instrumental in the making of international law, shaping its foundational doctrines, institutions, and practices. Conversely, it also interrogates how international law itself became a powerful tool in the making and maintenance of empire, facilitating processes of domination, extraction, and governance across the globe. Drawing on critical perspectives—especially those advanced by Third World Approaches to International Law (TWAIL) - the course challenges students to question conventional narratives and dominant frameworks. Through engagement with TWAIL scholarship and other critical schools, students analyze the extent to which international law continues to serve imperial interests and consider the question of whether international law, by itself, is now an empire.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

DDRO 25A99

Host Institution Course Title

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND EMPIRE

Host Institution Course Details

<https://syllabus.sciencespo.fr/fr/?202510%2F286215=>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
Seminar

Host Institution Department
Law

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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