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## Course plan

**B2.512 - International Law and Institutions**

**Credits: 4.0**

**Subject coordinator**

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## Presentation

### Description

The course *International Law and Institutions* is designed to provide students with the foundations of the international legal order.

The course is divided into three units:

Unit 1: The international legal order

Unit 2: Subjects of international law

Unit 3: State responsibility, peaceful settlement of disputes, use of force.

## **The course as part of the programme as a whole**

The Master's Degree in International Affairs and Diplomacy and related qualifications (UOC - UNITAR) is designed for diplomats, international civil servants (staff members of international organizations), and government officials involved in international affairs, as well as those persons involved in international relations or seeking a career in this field. The course *International Law and Institutions* will provide the students with a comprehensive understanding of the international legal order.

## **Professional fields it is linked to**

- National bodies (such as government ministries and departments, civil services, think-tanks, and policy advisory groups)
- Embassies and consulates
- International organizations (such as the UN, UN agencies, EU departments)
- Campaign groups, aid agencies and other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)
- Companies operating on an international level
- Journalists and other media professionals
- Banking, financial services and corporate consultancy
- University lecturers

## **Prior knowledge**

No prior knowledge is required, although some notions of law and international relations theories might be useful.

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## **Objectives and competencies**

### **Unit 1**

1. Know the main characteristics of the international society.
2. Learn the main characteristics that refer to the sources of international law.
3. Learn the basic rules that refer to birth, life and end of treaties.
4. Know how sources of international law interact.
5. Learn the rules that articulate the complex relationship between the international and domestic legal orders.
6. Analyze the keys of effectiveness under the public international law framework.

### **Unit 2**

1. Understand the notion and its variable content that refers to international legal personality.
2. Distinguish among the existing international actors who are subjects of international law.
3. Recognize the elements that conform a State and we aware of the legal consequences of its transformation.
4. Recognize the limited international subjectivity of individuals (active and passive).
5. Identify non-state actors different from international organizations, such as the Holy See, belligerent movements and peoples, as well as multinationals and NGOs.

6. Know and define the spaces that conform a State: territory, borders, air space, territorial sea, exclusive economic zone, international waters, etc.
7. Identify and understand the economic, political, social, cultural, strategic, etc., dimension that each of the above present.
8. Identify the problems that arise in each of the mentioned spaces: claims of sovereignty, exploitation of resources, etc.
9. Identify their legal regime in the sense of being aware about the rights and obligations that States are able to exercise in each of the mentioned spaces.
10. Identify the functions of the central, external and special bodies of the State within the context of international relations.
11. Identify the functions that diplomatic and consular missions have.
12. Assess the scope of external representation when referring to international organizations.
13. Understand the notion of immunity from jurisdiction and distinguish State activities in order to determine if the referred figure can be or not taken into account.

### **Unit 3**

1. Identify the elements that entail the perpetration of an internationally wrongful act.
2. Identify the consequences that emerge when an internationally wrongful act has been committed.
3. Identify the circumstances that preclude wrongfulness.
4. Distinguish different types of State responsibility at an international level.
5. Understand what diplomatic protection entails and the requirements needed to exercise such protection.
6. To know the different ways of putting an end to an international dispute.
7. To reaffirm the basic structural elements of the international regulation that refers to the different processes of solving disputes.
8. Learn the existing differences between the diplomatic process and the jurisdictional process when solving disputes.
9. Analyse the functions and limitations of the ICJ under contemporary international law.
10. Understand how the international society and its legal system determine that the mechanisms for the implementation of coercive measures are different from the ones foreseen at a domestic level.
11. Understand how the principle that refers to the prohibition of the threat or use of armed force in international relations has been formulated.
12. Analyse the relationship between self-defence and the so-called countermeasures.
13. Observe the contribution made by international organizations towards the progressive establishment of institutionalized procedures regarding the coercive application of international law.

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## **Content**

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## **Resources**

### **Support tools and learning resources**

#### **Learning resources used in this subject:**

Selected chapters from: Malcom N. Shaw: International Law (eight edition, 2017)

#### **Support tools and complementary materials:**

Although the course is built around the reading materials specified above, students are provided with a Study Guide in every Unit which complements the compulsory readings, highlights important elements of these readings and offers a selection of OPTIONAL (non-assessable) material under the specific thematic sections in each guide. These Study Guides are uploaded on to the platform. In addition to that, students are welcomed to ask the tutor for issue specific readings should they be interested.

### **Resources for citation and referencing**

- Bibliography management: <http://biblioteca.uoc.edu/en/resources/bibliography-management?platform=hootsuite>
- Video on how to cite sources: <http://biblioteca.uoc.edu/en/resources/bibliographic-citation>
- UOC's language resources database: dictionaries, tools and style services: <http://biblioteca.uoc.edu/en/resources/english-language-resources>
- UOC's Library Services: <http://biblioteca.uoc.edu/en/resources/resource/uoc-library-research>

### **Relevant Websites:**

### **Academic journals:**

### **Podcasts:**

### **Other resources:**

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