



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, ECONOMICS AND LAW

HRS340, International Criminal Law, 15,0 higher education credits

International Criminal Law, 15.0 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

1. Confirmation

The course syllabus was confirmed by School of Business, Economics and Law on 2010-12-14 and was last revised by Department of Law on 2013-03-15 to be valid from 2013-03-15.

Field of education: Law 100 %

Department: Department of Law

2. Position in the educational system

The course in International Criminal Law is an optional course for the completion of the Master of Law degree. It is given during the seventh semester within the framework of the Master of Laws programme. It is also open for visiting foreign students participating in international exchange programmes.

Main field of studies Specialization

- AIN, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

3. Entry requirements

Students following a Swedish Law programme leading up to a law degree must have completed 150 hec from semesters 1-5 of the law programme.

4. Course content

International criminal law (ICL) is the criminal law of the international society and a branch of International Law (IL). Even though it has undergone profound development since the end of the Cold War (1989) it is still very much a legal system in the making, imperfect in many regards. It is also important to note that within ICL the boundary between law and politics is often difficult to pinpoint.

International criminal tribunals (ICT) play an increasingly important role in the enforcement of substantive rules of ICL. These tribunals serve a dual objective. By conducting trials they give direct effect to IL establishing criminal responsibility of individuals. International criminal proceedings highlight the importance of respect for substantive ICL and reminds states of their primary responsibility for its enforcement. In addition, international tribunals also claim to be in the service not only of "justice", but also "reconciliation" and "reconstruction" (of war-torn societies). Hereby the expectations of what ICL and ICT can achieve are very high, sometimes unrealistic.

Departing from the nexus of law and politics as well as international law and criminal law (including procedural law) the course problematizes and discusses the issues raised above. Historically the course will depart from the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, an ad hoc tribunal, established by the UK, the US, the USSR and France, to try former Nazi officials after the end of WW II. Other ad hoc tribunals dealt with in the curriculum are the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). Time is also devoted to analyze the International Criminal Court (ICC), the rather recently established permanent ICT of the international society, as well as different "hybrid" tribunals.

5. Learning outcomes

The aim of the course is to give the student a contextualized understanding of the function of international criminal law. Legal procedures and the societal role, international as well as national, of different international tribunals are analyzed in their adequate historical and political setting.

After completion of the course the student is expected to have acquired the following *knowledge*:

- *Thorough knowledge* about the structure and function of international criminal law in current international society.
- *Thorough knowledge* about the origin and the function of the International Criminal Court as well as some *ad hoc* courts.
- *Considerable knowledge* about the legal procedures applied in the International Criminal Court as well as in some *ad hoc* courts.
- *Considerable orientation* regarding the role of international criminal law in societal reconciliation and reconstruction.

After completion of the course the student is expected to have acquired the following *proficiency*:

- To *understand* the historical development of the current international criminal legal system.
- To *reflect over and relate to* the relation between the international criminal legal system and the international society.
- To, based upon different international criminal legal systems, *design and structure* an authoritative legal argumentation departing from a concrete legal case.
- To *orally as well as in writing* produce descriptions and analyses of different aspects of international criminal law.

6. Literature

See separate list of required reading.

7. Assessment

The course consists of seven compulsory seminars, each of which is started with an introductory lecture. Each seminar covers four to six hours of presentation/discussion and introduction of the following seminar. The seminars require significant and qualified activity on behalf of the students. At each seminar the students, who will work in groups of maximum four members, have the task to present a certain aspect of the theme dealt with. The tasks given to the students will require analysis of statutes, case law and legal scholarship.

The course is concluded with individual essays on issues covered by the course. The students will have access to individual tutoring during the period of essay writing.

In order to pass examination the student must have participated actively in the seminar-series of the course. Examination is based on a combination of the activities at the seminars and the quality of the final essay. In this evaluation the essay represents 75 % of the basis for the final grade.

Test-code

Essay, test-code 0001

A student who has failed to participate at at least two of the classes/seminars during the first two weeks of the course is automatically de-registered from the course. Exemption may be given by the head-teacher of the course.

8. Grading scale

The grading scale comprises Fail (U), Pass (B), Passed with Credit (BA), Passed with Distinction (AB).

Different grades are used for different student pursuant to the following scheme, where also marks needed are indicated.

Law Programme	ECTS (internat. students)	Definition
AB	A	Excellent
AB	B	Very good
Ba	C	Good
B	D	Satisfactory
B	E	Sufficient
U	F	Fail

In order to pass the student must be present during compulsory items.

If a student fails twice on the examination, he or she is entitled to a new examiner.

9. Course evaluation

The Department of Law is under obligation to evaluate all of its courses. Course evaluation will be conducted and compiled in accordance with the current procedures at the Department of Law. All course evaluations of the courses on the Master of Laws programme are scrutinised by the Board of Education of the Department of Law. A student who assists with the compilation of the course evaluations is entitled to a certain remuneration and a certificate to this point.

10. Additional information

Language of instruction: English.

The course is given in English. Further study directions will be given at the course introduction.

Entry into force

The course is given for the first time spring 2011.