



School of Global Affairs  
IRL 360-AIX 1  
The International Law and Politics of Armed Conflict  
202425 Fall

## Course Details

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**Credit Hours:** 3

**Days:** Monday/Wednesday

**Time:** 15:30 - 17:00

**Prerequisites:** Prerequisite: This course is suitable for an undergraduate student who has successfully completed at least 3 semesters of College-level course work. Successful completion of ENG 101 or equivalent, and 6 credit hours in history or political science or international relations; or instructor permission.

## Instructor Information

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Gregory Mose

**Email:** Gregory.Mose@iau.edu

## Course Description

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The UN Charter vows to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war." Yet armed conflict has remained a constant feature of human history, as have efforts to somehow mitigate its horrors. The purpose of this course is to explore how international law, international organizations, states and NGOs interact in response to armed conflict, and how such responses can contribute to, or undermine, efforts to end violence. Topics will include the changing nature of warfare in the 21st century, the mechanisms in place to protect refugees, humanitarian aid, conflict prevention, and the role of international law. Significant attention will be paid to international tribunals and the challenges of enforcing the laws of armed conflict.

## Learning Outcomes

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Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- identify the organizations and legal regimes that guide international humanitarian responses;
- recognize the political, economic, and legal interests involved in armed conflicts;
- compare and contrast diverse approaches to mitigating suffering among civilian populations and appreciate their limitations;
- distinguish between theoretical aspirations and the practical possibilities of humanitarian responses in the field;
- synthesize the observations of scholars and practitioners into an independent and nuanced understanding of current humanitarian challenges; and
- apply the principles of international humanitarian law to real world scenarios.

## Instructional Methods and Activities

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We will explore the interrelated set of topics comprising this course through a combination of lectures, class discussions, films, and activities including:

- Structured in-class debates on case studies evoking common challenges in humanitarian aid and transitional justice;
- Student-led oral presentations and class discussion of the conflict dynamics of current armed conflicts;
- Simulation exercises and case study discussions of actual cases in the International Criminal Court and other tribunals;
- Field study visit exploring historical crimes against humanity in southern France under the Vichy regime.

## Assessment, Evaluation, and Grading

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**Participation: 10%** - Students will be expected to come prepared and to participate in class discussions, including taking an active role in in-class simulations. They will also be expected to

take notes on the reading for each week and to bring them to class, with a digital copy sent to the instructor, to be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

**Oral Presentations: 30%** - Students will participate in three group oral presentations during the semester on conflict dynamics, aid programs, and case studies in international law.

**Mid-term exam: 30%** - Short essay questions under closed-book exam conditions.

**Final exam: 30%** - Short essay questions under closed-book exam conditions.

## Grading System/Grade Distribution

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Grading System/Grade  
Distribution

U.S	ACM	French Equivalent
95-100%	A	17-20
90-94%	A -	16
88-89%	B+	15
84-87%	B	14
80-83%	B-	13
78-79%	C+	12
74-77%	C	11
70-73%	C-	10
68-69%	D+	9
64-67%	D	8
60-63%	D-	7
0-59%	F	0-6

## Attendance

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One of the primary requirements this semester is that you attend class. This is not a lecture class; it's essential that you come to class on time, be prepared for the lesson, and be ready to participate in discussions and activities. Attendance will be part of your final grade. Any absences can harm your final grade. It will be up to the student to manage and communicate with professors about their absences. For every absence, your final grade may be lowered by one

half-letter grade (B+ to become a B, B to become B-, and so on). ACM-IAU professors are empowered to impose academic sanctions (including a lowered grade or even failure) upon students for unexcused absences, frequent tardiness, work submitted late, or any other actions or behaviors that violate ACM's academic standards and policies.

## Academic Policies

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All students are responsible for reading, knowing, and understanding the information pertinent to their areas of study available in the ACM Catalog. The catalog contains requirements for all degree programs, course descriptions, academic policies, and regulations that govern ACM. All parts of the catalog are subject to annual changes as university rules, policies, and curricula change. It is your responsibility to keep informed of such changes; failure to do so will not exempt you from whatever penalties you may incur. Catalogs are published from August through July.

Review the latest catalog at: <https://www.acmfrance.org/academics/catalog>

## Schedule of Classes and Assignments

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Week	Dates	Weekly topics, readings, and activities
1	4 Sept	<b>Course introduction and case study</b>
2	9 Sept 11 Sept	<b>A brief history of armed conflict</b>  Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kaldor, <i>New and Old Wars</i>, Chapter 1</li> <li>• Mearsheimer, "Why Ukraine was the West's fault"</li> </ul>
3	16 Sept 18 Sept	<b>Conflict in the 21st Century</b>  Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kaldor, <i>New Wars</i>, Chapter 2</li> <li>• Keen, "Greed and grievance in civil war"</li> </ul>
4	23 Sept 25 Sept	<b>Student-Led Conflict Presentations</b>

5	30 Sept 2 Oct	<p><b>Refugees and Migration</b></p> <p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR Protection guide</li> <li>• Torelli, "Migration through the Mediterranean: Mapping the EU response"</li> <li>• Mbiyozo, "Rwanda–UK deal degrades refugee conventions and Africa’s approach"</li> </ul>
6	7 Oct 9 Oct	<p><b>Peacekeeping, Sanctions, and Intervention</b></p> <p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapnouil, "Signal, constrain, and coerce: A more strategic use of sanctions"</li> <li>• Kuperman, "Obama's Libya Debacle"</li> <li>• Ucko, "When Interventions Work: The Instructive Case of Sierra Leone"</li> </ul>
7	14 Oct 16 Oct	<p><b>Humanitarian aid, Peacebuilding, and Transitional Justice</b></p> <p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stein, "New Challenges to Conflict Resolution: Humanitarian Nongovernmental Organizations in Complex Emergencies"</li> <li>• Jenny, "All Peacebuilding is Local"</li> <li>• GSDRC, "Transitional Justice Topic Guide"</li> </ul>
8	21 Oct 23 Oct	<p><b>Review/Midterm</b></p>
9	4 Nov 6 Nov	<p><b>Group Presentations</b></p>
10	11 Nov 13 Nov	<p><b>International law and the Jus ad Bellum</b></p> <p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shaw, <i>International Law</i>, Chapt. 2</li> <li>• Hathaway, "Taking stock of ICJ Decisions in the 'Ukraine v. Russia' Cases—And implications for South Africa’s case against Israel"</li> </ul>

11	18 Nov 20 Nov	<b>Tribunals and international criminal law</b>  Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schabas, <i>The UN International Criminal Tribunals</i>, Chapt. 1</li> <li>• ICC, "How the ICC works"</li> <li>• Hendrickse, "A chance for Africa to counter the pitfalls of international criminal justice?"</li> </ul>
12	25 Nov 27 Nov	<b>International Humanitarian Law and the Jus in Bello</b>  Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commonwealth Secretariat, "International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Justice"</li> <li>• Sassoli, "Legitimate Targets of Attacks Under International Humanitarian Law"</li> <li>• "Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel" (May 2024)</li> </ul>
13	2 Dec 4 Dec	<b>Case studies in the laws of armed conflict</b>  Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case excerpts from Tadic, Taylor, NATO, and Abdoul Aziz</li> </ul>
14		<b>Final Exam</b>
TBD		<b>Field Study:</b> Day-long (8 hours) excursion to visit sites related to the internment and deportation of Jews and others during the Vichy regime, including Camp Les Milles.

**NOTE:**

Students will also be required to attend at least 2 additional lectures relevant to the course topic, which will count towards their participation grade. To the extent possible these lectures will be drawn from ACM-IAU evening lecture series. The exact lecture offering for semester will be confirmed at the beginning of the semester.

