

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

JURI 670

THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the historical origins and development of norms regarding the law of armed conflicts. The course focuses on the norms of customary international law and the positive law norms, such as the Geneva Conventions and Protocols on the law of war. Note: LL.M. students must meet additional legal brief component as described in course syllabus.

RATIONALE

The purpose of this course is to examine selected legal and moral doctrines related to international law of armed conflict, to include the Geneva Conventions of 1949 as well as other treaties and customary rules. It is important for the student to take this course so that he/she can become an informed policy maker, decision maker, and leader able to impact the most controversial topics such as massacres, killing of innocents, destruction of protected targets, the targeting of certain groups based on their religious or ethnic base, and the use of modern tactics (such as drones) in either a tactical or a strategic function.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Analyze the legal and moral doctrines related to the international law of armed conflict.
- B. Evaluate the historical evolution of laws and events related to the conduct of war and appraise the primary sources of the law of armed conflict.

- C. Differentiate the legal obligations and requirements of an occupying power.
- D. Appraise the practical application of the law of armed conflict in the contemporary environment.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (8)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 500 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 300 words.

- D. Case Briefs (2)

The student will write 2 case briefs of U.S. Supreme Court cases following the IRAC format. Each case brief must be 500–1,000 words.

- E. Research Paper

The student will write a 10-page research-based paper in current Bluebook format that focuses on whether the existing laws of armed conflict are adequate in light of current issues such as terrorism, detention, civilians taking a direct part in hostilities, cyber operations, and targeting in non-international armed conflicts. The paper must include at least 5 references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible. The Research Paper will be completed in the following stages:
Annotated Bibliography

The student will submit his or her intended sources in an annotated bibliography in current Bluebook format. The annotated bibliography must contain at least 5 sources, and each annotation must be at least 150 words.

Outline

The student will submit an outline of the major points to be addressed in the paper. The outline must include a title page, a thesis page, initial research showing the body or major points to be made, a conclusion of at least 3 sentences, and a references page.

Final

The student will submit the final paper in current Bluebook format. The paper must total 2500 words (not including the title page, thesis page, and references page). Note: LL.M. students must add an additional 2500 words of writing in their final paper. This is a Pass/Fail component of this assignment. This is not required of the JM students.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (8 at 60 pts ea)	480
Case Briefs (2 at 50 pts ea)	100
Research Paper	
Annotated Bibliography	50
Outline	70
Final	300
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

JURI 670

Textbooks: Roberts & Guelff, *Documents on the Laws of War* (2000).

Wilmhurst & Breau, *Perspectives on the ICRC Study on Customary International Humanitarian Law* (2011).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Roberts & Guelff: Documents 5–6, 10 2 presentations 1 lecture note 2 websites	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 60
2	Wilmhurst & Breau: chs. 2–3 1 lecture note	DB Forum 2 Case Brief 1	60 50
3	Roberts & Guelff: Documents 17– 20 1 lecture note 4 websites	DB Forum 3 RP – Annotated Bibliography	60 50
4	Wilmhurst & Breau: chs. 6–7, 10 1 lecture note	DB Forum 4 Case Brief 2	60 50
5	Wilmhurst & Breau: chs. 11–13 1 lecture note 2 websites	DB Forum 5 RP – Outline	60 70
6	Roberts & Guelff: Documents 24– 26 Wilmhurst & Breau: chs. 4–5 1 lecture note	DB Forum 6	60
7	Roberts & Guelff: Documents 34, 37–38 1 presentation 1 lecture note 3 websites	DB Forum 7 RP – Final	60 300

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
8	Roberts & Guelff: Documents 31, 35 Wilmhurst & Breau: ch. 16 1 presentation 1 lecture note 1 website	DB Forum 8	60
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board
 RP = Research Paper

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.