

Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the instructor during the first day of class.

The American University of Rome International Relations Program

Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title:	International Relations: Theories and Cases
Course Number:	IA 213
Credits & hours:	2 credits
Pre/Co-Requisites:	None

Course description

This course is aimed at an improved understanding of the relationship between peace, justice and human rights in an international perspective, by addressing the legal obstacles and ethical dilemmas faced by the international community in pursuing these different but reciprocally connected goals. It addresses the maintenance of peace and security both between and within states, the fight against impunity for international crimes such as genocide and war crimes, the protection of human rights such as the right to life, the right not to be tortured and the right to personal freedom in the context of different types of conflicts (including the “war on terror”). Specific issues explored during the course include the extraterritorial jurisdiction of states, international criminal tribunals, immunities from jurisdiction, different approaches to the fight against terrorism and different models of post-conflict transitional justice.

Required Textbook (*subject to change*)

- Steven R. Ratner, Jason S. Abrams, James L. Bischoff, *Accountability for Human Rights Atrocities in International Law. Beyond the Nuremberg Legacy*, 3rd edition, 2009, Oxford University Press, ISBN: 9780199546671
- Antonio Cassese, Paola Gaeta, *Cassese’s International Criminal Law*, 3rd edition, 2013, Oxford University Press, ISBN: 9780199694921

Course Learning Objectives

Students who have taken this course will be able to:

1. Distinguish, analyze and present the main political and legal concepts involved when addressing issues of peace, justice and human rights in an international perspective (CLO1)
2. Appreciate the historical and recent developments in the field (CLO 2)
3. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the key issues and relate them to historical and empirical events (CLO3)
4. Acquire new information and knowledge from a variety of textual sources (CLO4)
5. Communicate their knowledge verbally and/or in written work (CLO5).

Course Learning Activities

- Two weekly meetings lasting 1.25 hours each. These meetings will include lectures, group discussions as well as activities involving active student participation such as role play and debates (CLO1/2).
- Students will be expected to present the basic concepts and issues covered in the course and acquire analytical and critical knowledge of the selected topics (CLO 3).
- Discussion will be aimed at helping students to refine and process the knowledge they have acquired in independent study (CLO 3/4).
- Students will write a 2500-word final paper or a 2500-word policy brief on a topic or specific case proposed by the student and approved by the Professor and will make a 10-min oral presentation on the chosen topic/case to the class (CLO 5).

Assessment tools

1. Professor will start classes asking students to wrap-up the previous session. This will count for **10%** of the final grade.
2. Mid-term test, which will count for **25%** of the final mark and will assess both factual knowledge and ability of students to understand key concepts as well as to evaluate and interpret developments in the areas covered during the first part of the course.
3. Final exam will count for **25%** of the final mark and will assess both factual knowledge and ability of students to understand key concepts as well as to evaluate and interpret developments in the areas covered during the course as a whole.
4. 2500 words paper or policy brief, which will be presented orally to the class and will count for **40%** of the final mark. In their final paper/policy brief the students will be expected to demonstrate their factual knowledge and their understanding of key issues, as well as their ability to acquire new information and knowledge from different textual sources. The topic of research papers must be approved by the professor. Students are encouraged to exploit at their best all the resources that AUR has at its disposal, e.g. the Library, colleagues, other professors. All papers must be submitted via Turnitin.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Topic
<p>Historical introduction: the Nuremberg (and Tokyo) legacy What are the main facts about the Nuremberg (and Tokyo) tribunals? What is old and what is new about them? In what respect can they be described as international tribunals? What is their legacy?</p>
<p>International crimes old and new (an overview) What makes a criminal offence international? Which crimes are international? In what ways does the international community respond? An overview of international crimes: the “core crimes”, including the Nuremberg triad (war crimes, crimes against humanity, crimes against peace, currently referred to as aggression) and genocide; the “treaty crimes” such as torture and disappearances; the special case of terrorism</p>
<p>Focus on genocide The origins of the notion of genocide (Raphael Lemkin, the Nuremberg Statute and trial) - The Genocide Convention of 1948 – the definition of genocide – extensive interpretation: political/cultural genocide? – cases: the Armenian precedent; the Holocaust; genocide in the ‘90s: Rwanda, Srebrenica; genocide today: the case of the Rohingya and other controversial cases – the symbolic nature of genocide – denial and minimization of genocide</p>
<p>Focus on terrorism Terrorism, a national, transnational and international crime – the judicial cooperation approach: extradition and other forms of judicial cooperation between states - human rights limitations to judicial cooperation - the “war on terror” approach and its implications (terrorism as an armed attack and/or as a threat to the peace) - “war on terror” and international humanitarian law (targeted killings, unlawful combatants)</p>
<p>International human rights and international criminal justice The different (and complementary) approaches to international crimes - state responsibility for violations of human rights by states vs international criminal responsibility of individual officials – the decentralized vs. the centralized response to international crimes</p>
<p>The “decentralized” response to international crimes: extraterritorial/universal jurisdiction of states International obligations to punish, universal jurisdiction and the <i>aut dedere aut judicare</i> rule –special rules applicable to the prosecution of international crimes - A comparison between different national systems – Contemporary vs. classic international law: the struggle against impunity vs. immunity of state organs (and protection of state sovereignty)</p>
<p>The “centralized” response to international crimes: international tribunals International <i>ad hoc</i> (special) tribunals: the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and war crimes – the International Tribunal for Rwanda and genocide - the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and terrorism</p>
<p>Hybrid tribunals The Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, War Crimes Chamber in the State Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the (East Timor) Special Panels for Serious Crimes.</p>
<p>The International Criminal Court: the Rome Conference and the Rome Statute The older precedents - Preparing the ground in the 1990s - the 1998 Conference of Plenipotentiaries – the role of NGOs - the main elements of the Statute (the ICC and its place within the international framework)</p>
<p>The International Criminal Court: the role of the Court and the role of States The need to implement the Rome Statute through national legislation – Cooperation – Complementarity - the ICC and third parties (with a special focus on the United States) – cases and investigations before the ICC</p>
<p>No peace without justice? How to respond to past violations: the Nuremberg model, the “blanket Amnesty” model, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission model – transitional justice – no peace without justice?/no justice without punishment?: the ethical (and practical) dilemmas – the South African Commission – other TRCs</p>
<p>Final Exam/Special event (possibly linked, in 2023, to the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court)</p>

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please refer to the Provost's Office list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally not be counted as an absence.

Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No Instructor may penalize a student more than half a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		