

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW WORKING GROUP



Instructor in charge:

Asst. Prof. Dr. Elif Gökşen Köstem

This working group will examine the idea of international criminal justice and its implementation through national and international ways. We will be discussing the nature of international criminal law as well as its purpose and objectives. We will also be looking at the historical development of international criminal law with close analysis of Nuremberg and Tokyo trials as well as Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia trials. We will mainly focus on the International Criminal Court as it is a permanent court. We will discuss the jurisdiction and admissibility standards to understand how the Court works and where it stands in the whole picture of international criminal justice. We will also explore the core crimes such as crimes against humanity, genocide, war crimes and crime of aggression and we will have the chance to discuss some of the current global crises. We will also specifically discuss what the general principles of liability in international criminal law are and how it differs from national understanding of criminal liability. Finally, we will examine the defences in international criminal law by discussing several case law examples from different courts. During these working group meetings we are planning to do a class role play activity over a fictitious case scenario in which the students will get the chance to play the prosecution or defence in a fictitious trial.

Contents

Week 1:

The Purpose, Scope and Objectives of International Criminal Law

Week 2:

Evolution of International Criminal Justice: From Nuremberg and Tokyo to the International Criminal Court

Week 3:

Jurisdiction and Immunities

Week 4:

Substantive Law I: Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide

Week 5:

Substantive Law II: War Crimes and the Crime of Aggression

Week 6:

General Principles of Liability

Week 7:

Defenses

Requirements for Students

- Students must read each session's material before the meeting.
- Each student will present on an assigned reading briefly for 15 minutes in each session.
- Students will participate in a role play activity based on a fictitious case scenario.

Conditions for Applying

1. There is no CGPA requirement for applying to this group
2. Applicants must a very good level of English.
3. Applicants must have successfully completed the following course:
 - Criminal Law I-II
4. Applicants must submit a statement of intent, describing why they would like to participate in this working group and why they think they can contribute to the group's discussions. The statement of intent should be no longer than 500 words.