

Provisional Course Syllabus- subject to change

International Humanitarian Law LW 471 (Autumn 2026)

Dr. Mais Qandeel

LL.M. Programmes - Irish Centre for Human Rights

Objectives	• To provide students with an appreciation of the general principles and laws that comprise international humanitarian law and to assess how these rules developed over time. • To evaluate the application of these rules to case studies and scenarios and to critically analyse how IHL is enforced.
Lecturer:	Dr. Mais Qandeel Email: mais.qandeel@universityofgalway.ie
Time & location:	Group 1 Mondays (Weeks 2-9), 09:00-12:00 Group 2 Tuesdays (Weeks 2-9), 14:00-17:00 Seminar Room, Irish Centre for Human Rights.
Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of this course students will be able to: • Discuss and evaluate the role and nature of IHL; • Critically examine the historical background to the development of IHL; • Critically examine the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols; • Analyse and discuss the criteria for distinguishing between categories of conflict; • Critically examine the rules governing the treatment of combatants and prisoners of war; • Explain and apply the rules governing the conduct of hostilities; • Explain and evaluate the protection of civilians under IHL; • Critically evaluate contemporary challenges to IHL; • Explain the distinction between international humanitarian law and international human rights law; • Discuss the implementation of IHL; • Critically examine the contemporary challenges of IHL
Format	There will be one 3-hour seminar per week during the semester (weeks 2-9). Students are required to read material in advance, and

	they are encouraged to engage in debate and discussion of the relevant topics. There will be a compulsory field visit to the Irish Defence Forces, which will include talks on peacekeeping, IHL issues encountered by Irish army personnel, along with a display of weaponry used in the field. The visit will be organised by Prof. Ray Murphy and Dr Mais Qandeel, and further details will follow in due course.
Programmes	LL.M. programmes, full-time and part-time.
Course Material	Syllabus and select reading material available on Canvas .
Core Texts	• N. Melzer, <i>International Humanitarian Law, A Comprehensive Introduction</i> (ICRC 2022) (copy available on Canvas in the “Files sub-section”). • G. Solis, <i>The Law of Armed Conflict</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2021). Available online via the library website. • E. Crawford and A. Pert, <i>International Humanitarian Law</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2020). Available online via the library website. • J.M. Henckaerts & L. Doswald-Beck, <i>Customary International Humanitarian Law</i>, Volumes One (Rules) & Two (Practice); • ICRC, The Geneva Conventions I, II, III, & IV of 12 August 1949, Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977, and related commentaries Available here. • A. Clapham, P. Gaeta & M. Sassòli (Editors), <i>The 1949 Geneva Conventions - A commentary</i> (Oxford University Press, 2015). • ICRC, <i>Interpretive Guidance on the Notion of Direct Participation in Hostilities under IHL</i>, ICRC (2009). Available here. • B. Saul & D. Akande, <i>The Oxford Guide to International Humanitarian Law</i> (Oxford University Press, 2020). Available online via the library website. • M. Sassòli & P. Nagler, <i>International Humanitarian Law: Rules, Controversies and Solutions to Problems Arising in Warfare</i>, Elgar (Northampton 2019). Available online via the library website. • C. Henderson, <i>The Use of Force and International Law</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2023). Available online via the library website. • G. Oberleitner, <i>Human Rights in Armed Conflict</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2015). Available online via the library website.

	• D. Murray et al., <i>Practitioners' Guide to Human Rights Law in Armed Conflict</i> (Oxford University Press, 2017). Available online via the library website. • M. Sassòli, A. Bouvier & A. Quintin, <i>How Does Law Protect in War, Volumes One, Two and Three</i> ICRC (ICRC, 2011) – available here.
Supplementary Texts & Sources	• M. Newton (Editor), <i>The United States Department of Defense Law of War Manual: Commentary and Critique</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2019). • C. O'Rourke, <i>Women's Rights in Armed Conflict under International Law</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2020). • N. Tsagourias & A. Morrison, <i>International Humanitarian Law, Cases Materials and Commentary</i> (Cambridge University Press 2018). • E. Crawford, <i>The Treatment of Combatants and Insurgents under the Law of Armed Conflict</i> (Oxford University Press, 2010). • Y. Dinstein, <i>The Conduct of Hostilities under the Law of International Armed Conflict</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2016). • Y. Dinstein, <i>The Law of Belligerent Occupation</i>, (Cambridge University Press, 2019). • UK Ministry of Defence, <i>The Manual of the Law of Armed Conflict</i>, (Oxford University Press, 2004). • F. Kalshoven & L. Zegveld, <i>Constraints on the Waging of War – an Introduction to International Humanitarian Law</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2011). • L. Sriram, O. Martin-Ortega & J. Herman, <i>War, Conflict and Human Rights</i>, (Routledge, 2010). <u>Journals</u> • <i>Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law</i> • <i>Journal of Conflict and Security Law</i> • <i>International Review of the Red Cross</i> • <i>Journal of International Criminal Justice</i> • <i>Journal of International Humanitarian Legal Studies</i> <u>Web sites:</u> • International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) • Yale Law School – The Avalon Project on Laws of War

	• Reports from International Crisis Group
Assessment	Evaluation is undertaken through the submission of a 5,000-word essay (excluding footnotes) which should demonstrate significant research, familiarity with the legal framework and literature, independent thought and critical legal analysis. Please use 1.5 spacing, Times New Roman size 12 font, and justified text. Each essay should also include a bibliography. Use OSCOLA Referencing Style (4th Edition).