

International Law and Migration

PRE-REQUISITE

Background in law, preferably international law, is recommended. The course is in English. The course is limited to the participation of 20 students.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims at introducing basic principles of international human rights law, international criminal law and international refugee law through the study of the migration crisis in the Mediterranean.

Approximately 258 million people, or roughly 3% of the world's population, live outside their country of origin or habitual residence – the highest number ever recorded. Of these, approximately 10%, or about 25 million people, have fled their country as refugees – the largest number since WWII. Millions of civilians have fled or are fleeing their homes, escaping from war and terror, hunger and persecutions, ecological disasters and poverty.

The course aspires to critically present the different positions on the matter by examining the situation from several international law perspectives and instruments: the laws of the sea, human rights law and the legal institution of asylum. After the legal framework is established, the course further examines what legal venues are available to hold states, non-State actors and individuals accountable for any human rights violations. Finally, the course explores cutting-edge legal questions, such as whether migration policies based on deterrence, arrival \ departure prevention and *refoulement* may bear international criminal liability.

PEDAGOGICAL FORMAT

Reading will focus on three strands: theoretical – introduction to basic notions of int'l law, with a focus on International Refugee Law, International Human Rights Law and International Criminal Law; doctrinal – applicable treaties, laws, and case law; and evidentiary - reports by the UN, NGOs and forensic investigations. Detailed syllabus will be circulated before the first class. Grading is composed of participation in class (20%), four short assignments (40%) and one final assignment (40%).