Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

TEACHING GUIDE

PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW

GRADO EN RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES (INGLÉS)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Q2803011B UNIVERSIDAD REY JUAN CARLOS
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Publication date: 05-07-2026

I.-Subject Identification	
Type	OBLIGATORIA
Teaching period	1 course, 2Q semester
Nº of credits	6
Language in wich the subject is taught	English

II.-Presentation

This course is intended to introduce students to the basic concepts and problems of the international legal system. The subject covers the traditional main topics in this field such as the sources and the subjects of international law, the jurisdiction of the state, use of force, the relationship between international law and the internal law of the states. During the lectures we will review and discuss a number of international case studies decided by national and international courts, as well as certain treaties, resolutions and other core international legal instruments. In order to attend the course a B1 level of English is required. It would be useful being familiar with the key issues of constitutional law and legal theory.

III.-Learning outcomes

CG01. Students must be able to possess and understand their own knowledge of the area of institutional relations, based on general secondary education.
CG03. Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data in order to make value judgements that include an analysis of the relevant political, legal, social, economic, scientific and ethical issues.
CG05. Students must be able to work in groups, transmitting, sharing and processing information.
CE01. Students must acquire general knowledge on the source, development and nature of legal systems and protocols governing actions and meetings that regulate interpersonal and institutional relations in national and international scenarios.
CE08. Students must acquire the necessary skills to study and independently analyse the protagonists, relations and institutional framework of the International Society, as well as obtain the necessary resources for such an analysis.

- Key for degrees not adapted to RD 822/21: **CB** - basic competences, **CG** - generic competences, **CE** - specific competences, **CT** - transversal competences.
- Key for degrees adapted to RD 822/21: **CON** - knowledge, **COM** - competences, **HAB** - skills.

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IV.-Contents

IV.A.-Syllabus

CONTENTS

- **1. Introduction: Concept of International Law**
- **2. Sources of Inernational Law**
- **3. Subjects of International Law: international and national legal personality. New subjects of the Law**
- **4. International Responsibility**
- **5. Dispute settlement**
- **6. The Use of Force**

IV.B.-Training activities

Type	Title
Prácticas / Resolución de ejercicios	Individual Practical Exercises
Lectures	Compulsory Readings

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V.-Student workload	
Theoretical sessions	30
Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies, etc.	30
Practical sessions in experimental, technological and clinical laboratories, fieldwork, etc.	0
Tests and/or exams	0
Academic tutorials	9
Related activities: conferences, seminars, etc.	9
Preparation of theoretical sessions and self-study	50
Preparation of practical tasks, exercises, case studies, projects, etc.	50
Preparation for tests and/or exams	2
Total student workload	180

VI.-Methodology and academic programme

Type	Period	Content
Theoretical sessions	Week 1 to Week 1	1. Introduction
Practical sessions	Week 3 to Week 3	Case Study
Theoretical sessions	Week 2 to Week 2	2.Sources of PIL
Theoretical sessions	Week 4 to Week 4	3. Law of treaties
Practical sessions	Week 5 to Week 5	Case Study
Practical sessions	Week 12 to Week 12	Case Study
Theoretical sessions	Week 13 to Week 13	International Responsibility
Theoretical sessions	Week 14 to Week 14	Case Study
Theoretical sessions	Week 6 to Week 6	Other sources
Practical sessions	Week 7 to Week 7	Case Study
Theoretical sessions	Week 8 to Week 8	4. Subjects of International Law
Theoretical sessions	Week 9 to Week 9	The State
Practical sessions	Week 10 to Week 10	Case Study
Theoretical sessions	Week 11 to Week 11	Other subjects.

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VII.-Assessment methods

The general assessment method is continuous as established in the *Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes* of Rey Juan Carlos University.
All the assessment systems established in the degree report must be employed, except for those that have a minimum weight of 0%, which can be used by professors in the academic years they consider relevant. Each assessment system may be applied through one or more assessment activities, consistent with the system. No assessment activity can exceed individually 60% of the overall grade for the subject.
The sum of non re-evaluable activities cannot exceed 40% of the overall grade for the subject and, in general, should not have an established minimum grade (except for practical activities in which, strictly speaking, the conditions of the ordinary call cannot be reproduced in the extraordinary call).
Those students who do not manage to pass the subject in the ordinary call, or do not attend this first call, may attend the extraordinary call only for failed re-evaluable assessment activities.
The distribution and characteristics of the assessment activities are described below.

VII.A.-Description and weight of the assessment activities

Medium Term Multiple Choice Exam On Campus: is worth 40% (8 questions available: 0,5 points each correct answer)
Final Term Multiple Choice Exam On Campus: 40%
Attendance and active participation in class: 20%
Grading scheme: Cumulative points (students need to earn 5 points on the midterm and final term exams to pass the PIL course and to get the additional 20% on attendance and participation in class)

VII.B. Assessment of students with academic exemption from class attendance

Having Academic Exemption from Class Attendance (DAAC) does not imply that students are automatically exempt from participating in the continuous assessment activities or in the training activities of compulsory attendance as established in the teaching guide. Once the exemption has been granted, students must contact the subject's teaching staff, who will propose the adaptations he/she may consider relevant, as long as they guarantee the acquisition and adequate assessment of the learning goals established. Students must maintain adequate communication with the teaching staff so that they may provide information on the dates for training and assessment activities, if these are not established in the programme and available for students at the time of achieving the exemption.
Subject with possibility of academic exemption: Yes.

VII.C. Review of assessment activities

In accordance with the Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes of Rey Juan Carlos University.

VII.D.-Students with a disability or special educational needs

In order to guarantee equal opportunities, non-discrimination, universal accessibility and academic success, students with disabilities or especial education needs may request curricular adaptations to follow their studies. These adaptations will be provided by the Unit of Attention to People with Disabilities of Rey Juan Carlos University, in accordance with the regulation which regulates the service for the Attention of People with Disabilities at the University. This Unit will issue a report for curricular adaptations, so that students with disabilities or special education needs must contact the service (at e-mail discapacidad.programa@urjc.es) in order to provide relevant information for different educational alternatives.

VII.E.-Academic behaviour, academic integrity and honesty

Rey Juan Carlos University is fully committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty, so studying at the URJC means assuming and subscribing to the values of integrity and academic honesty set out in the University's Ethical Code. To support this process, the University has Rey Juan Carlos University's Academic Conduct Regulation as well as different tools (anti-plagiarism, supervision...) that offer a collective guarantee for the full development of these essential values.

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VIII.-Teaching resources and materials
Basic bibliography
Curso de Derecho internacional público y organizaciones internacionales, JA Pastor Ridruejo y Antonio Pastor Palomar, Tecnos, 2026
Public International Law Author M. Evans (Ed) Publisher Third Edition Brownlie's Principles of Public International Law, J. Crawford, 8 ed., 2019
Consultation bibliography
Title International Law: Cases and commentary Author Mark W. Janis and John Noyes Publisher West, 3rd ed, 2006

IX.-Professors	
Name and surname	ANTONIO PASTOR PALOMAR
E-mail address	antonio.pastor@urjc.es
Department	Derecho Público II
Campus	Madrid - Vicálvaro
Category	Catedrático/a de Universidad
Academic degree	Doctor
Person responsible for the subject	Yes
Tutorial timetable	Para consultar las tutorias póngase en contacto con el/la profesor/a a través de correo electrónico
Number of quinquennia	6
Number of sexennia	4
No. of positive evaluations by Docentia	3

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