Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

TEACHING GUIDE

PROCEDURAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNALS

GRADO EN RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES (INGLÉS)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Q2803011B UNIVERSIDAD REY JUAN CARLOS
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Publication date: 22-06-2026

I.-Subject Identification	
Type	OBLIGATORIA
Teaching period	3 course, 2Q semester
Nº of credits	6
Language in wich the subject is taught	English

II.-Presentation

Procedural Law is a set of established features for conducting a trial and regulating the events that precede and follow it. It comprises the rules by which a tribunal resolves a conflict. The rules are designed to ensure a fair and consistent application of due process to all cases that come before a court. Procedural Law focuses on three areas or pillars: the courts (organization, jurisdiction and competence, judicial carreer..), the procedure (as the vehicle through which the courts provide the parties to the case with the judicial protection requested by one of them) and the exercise of the right of action (the required actions the active party must adopt to request the court the resolution of the conflict, as well as the actions the respondent may adopt in order to response the applicant´s requests).

There are some international tribunals, with jurisdiction as the result of the ratification of international treaties. The international jurisdiction of those tribunals is slightly different from the domestic courts, the legal nature of the subjects involved in the international conflicts which may be brought before these tribunals is very particular, and varied. For that reason each of them is unique and fastinating!

This course will give the student a precise knowledge of the current international tribunals and the procedural general rules which govern international litigation. We will examine the procedure before these tribunals, their origin, jurisdiction, composition... and the varying scopes of their jurisdiction, as well as the requirements to exercise the right of action and the procedure as a meas for the courts to ensure the legal protection required, hence to provide a peaceful and jurisdictional resolution of an international conflict.

III.-Learning outcomes

CG02. Students must be able to apply acquired knowledge to professional work and posses the skills that can be demonstrated by means of reasoning and defence, as well as problem-solving.

CG07. Students must be able to understand international relations from a perspective based on respect for human rights and the principles of democratic life and multicultural society.

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.

CE18. Students must acquire their own skills to carry out professional activities within the framework of international relations and protection of rights.

- 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

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO PROCEDURAL LAW.
1. The different mechanisms to resolve disputes.
2. Procedure and Proceedings.
3. Fundamental principles of Procedure and fundamental principles of Proceedings.

PRT II: INTERNATIONAL JURISDICCTION
1. International Court of Justice
2. International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

PART III: HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNALS
1. European Court of Human Rights
2. Inter-American Court of Human Rights
3. African Court of Human and People´s Right

PART IV: CRIMINAL JURISDICTION
1. International Criminal Court

PART V: EU JUSTICE
1. Court of Justice of the EU
2. The General Court

IV.B.-Training activities

Type	Title
Oral presentations	Students will have compulsory and voluntary presentations related to the course
Individual work	Students will be given different individual assignments during the course
Other activities	Students may be able to participate in mock trials, role-play exercises
Test and/or exams	There will be a Final Exam (ordinary and extraordinary school period). There is no midterm exam.
Practical sessions	There will be a few mandatory assignments which will consist of the resolution of different cases
Group work	Students will have to submit a Final Group Assignment. Instructions regarding this activity will be published on due time.
Theoretical sessions	The professor will give lectures to cover the content of the course.

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V.-Student workload	
Theoretical sessions	30
Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies, etc.	20
Practical sessions in experimental, technological and clinical laboratories, fieldwork, etc.	0
Tests and/or exams	10
Academic tutorials	16
Related activities: conferences, seminars, etc.	2
Preparation of theoretical sessions and self-study	40
Preparation of practical tasks, exercises, case studies, projects, etc.	50
Preparation for tests and/or exams	12
Total student workload	180

VI.-Methodology and academic programme

Type	Period	Content
Theoretical sessions	Week 5 to Week 8	Part III Lectures: Human Rights Courts.
Theoretical sessions	Week 9 to Week 12	Part IV Lectures: International Criminal Jurisdiction. Part V Lectures: EU Tribunals
Practical sessions	Week 1 to Week 14	Students will have to submit mandatory individual assignments related to the course.
Group work	Week 12 to Week 14	Students will have to submit and present a Final Group Assignment in class.
Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies	Week 1 to Week 14	The professor will suggest different activities for certain classes. The students will have to identify the conflict (problem) and resolve it.
Theoretical sessions	Week 1 to Week 1	Part I Lectures: Introduction to Procedural Law
Theoretical sessions	Week 2 to Week 4	Part II Lectures: Courts with general international jurisdiction: International Court of Justice and International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

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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

20% Course Assignments (not subject to reassessment)
20% Final Group Assignment (not subject to reassessment)
60% Exam (subject to reassessment)

Voluntary activities will be taken into account to upgrade the Final Mark.

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
Manual on International Courts and Tribunals. Ruth. MACKENZIE; Cesare ROMANO; Yuval SHANY; Philippe SANDS. Oxford University Press ***The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. Law, practice and procedure.*** P. CHANDRASEKHARA RAO, Philippe GAUTIER, Elgar International Law and Practice, 2018 ***Derecho Penal Internacional.*** Alicia GIL GIL, Elena MACULAN, Dykninson, 2016 ***An Introduction to International Criminal Law and Procedure.*** Robert CRYER, Halkan FRIMAN, Darryl ROBINSON, Elisabeth WILMSHURST, Cambridge University Press, 3rd edition, 2015 ***A Common Law on International Adjudication.*** Chester BROWN, Oxford University Press, 2009
Consultation bibliography

IX.-Professors	
Name and surname	ELENA PINEROS POLO
E-mail address	elena.pineros@urjc.es
Department	Derecho Público II
Campus	Madrid - Vicálvaro
Category	Profesor/a Permanente Laboral
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	3
Number of sexennia	0
No. of positive evaluations by Docentia	4

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