COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
CONTEMPORARY APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s)
Coordinator: assist. dr. Gabija Grigaitė - Daugirdė **Other(s):**	Vilnius University, Faculty of Law, Department of Public Law Saulėtekio av. 9, Building 1, 405 Room, LT-10222, Vilnius Phone (8 5) 2366175, e-mail: vtkatedra@tf.vu.lt

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
Second	Elective

Mode of delivery	Course unit delivery period	Language(s) of instruction
Face-to-face	Spring semester	English

Requirements for students	
Pre-requisites: Public International Law	**Co-requisites (if any):** none

Number of credits allocated	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	133	32	101

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed		
The course unit is aimed at providing comprehensive knowledge of the law applicable to armed conflict, the basic principles of international humanitarian law and humanitarian action, and humanitarian law institutes; at developing the capacity to differentiate between the responsibility of state and non-state entities for violations of humanitarian law and humanitarian crises; at systematically interpreting humanitarian standards, humanitarian actors; at applying theoretical knowledge in critical analysis and evaluation of humanitarian issues.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	**Teaching and learning methods**	**Assessment methods**
Students: - will understand and systematically interpret the sources of international humanitarian law, inter alia, applied to armed conflicts, as well as, the meaning and content of international humanitarian law norms, the problems of their implementation and the need for dissemination, and will apply it correctly in legal decisions;	Lectures (problem-based teaching, guest lecture by a social partner-expert), seminars (group discussion, case study, presentation), individual work (search of information, analysis of scientific literature).	Class participation (discussion questions, presentation), group research work, exam (test - closed questions).
- will have knowledge of the main international and national case law in the field of humanitarian law; will be able to critically analyze and ethically evaluate it;	Lectures (problem-based teaching, guest lecture by a social partner-expert), seminars (group discussion, case study, presentation), individual work (search of information, analysis of scientific literature).	Class participation (discussion questions, presentation), group research work, exam (test - closed questions).
- will be able to identify the law applicable to different humanitarian crises, to critically assess the behavior of states and the role of international and non-governmental organizations in the context of humanitarian action, and to substantiate their liability in terms of international humanitarian law;	Lectures (problem-based teaching, guest lecture by a social partner-expert), seminars (group discussion, case study, presentation), individual work (search of information, analysis	Class participation (discussion questions, presentation), group research work, exam (test - closed questions).

	of scientific literature).	
- will be able to lay out their own ideas and thoughts, conclusions reached working in groups in an argumentative, critical and logical way as well as in accordance with the theory of HA and acquired knowledge from the analysis of practice, both orally and in writing;	Lectures (problem-based teaching), seminars (group discussion, group work, case study, presentation), individual work (search of information, analysis of scientific literature).	Class participation (discussion questions, presentation), group research work, exam (test - closed questions).
-will be able to work independently and use international databases of legal information and other sources necessary for deepening knowledge of international humanitarian law (and for further studies)	Individual work (search of information, analysis of scientific literature).	Seminar work (discussion questions, presentation), group research work.

Topics	Contact hours							Self-study work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Internship/work placement	**Contact hours**	**Self-study hours**	**Assignments**
1. Law applicable to armed conflicts. Conception, sources, basic principles and used concepts of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).	4						**4**	**12**	Analysis of scientific literature.
2. Types of armed conflict. Qualification problems and consequences, influence on the legal regime of humanitarian activities.	2		2				**4**	**12**	Analysis of scientific literature, case law. Modelling and solution of practical assignments.
3. Civilians and their protection during armed conflict. Regulation of military ways and means in International Humanitarian Law.	2		2				**4**	**12**	Analysis of scientific literature, case law. Modelling and solution of practical assignments.
4. Combatants. Prisoners of war and their legal status. Protection of the wounded, sick and shipwrecked.	2		2				**4**	**10**	Analysis of scientific literature, case law. Modelling and solution of practical assignments.
5. Liability for violations of International Humanitarian Law. State liability and international criminal responsibility for crimes under international law.	2						**4**	**13**	Analysis of scientific literature, case law. Discussions.
6. The Responsibility to Protect concept in Public International Law. State Responsibility for humanitarian crisis. The legitimacy of humanitarian intervention in contemporary international law.	4		2				**6**	**10**	Analysis of scientific literature.
7. Right to provide and receive humanitarian assistance. Concept and standards of humanitarian activities.	2						**2**	**10**	Analysis of scientific literature. Modelling and solution of practical assignments.
8. Subjects of humanitarian action, their rights and obligations. International Committee of the Red Cross. Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.	2							**10**	Analysis of scientific literature, case law. Modelling and solution of practical assignments.
9. Challenges in humanitarian law and action. Human rights and their enforcement in the context of crises. Non-state entities and their	2		2				**4**	**12**	Analysis of scientific literature, case law. Modelling and solution of practical assignments.

responsibilities.									
Total	**22**		**10**				**32**	**101**	

Assessment strategy	**Weight, percentage**	**Assessment period**	**Assessment criteria**
Class participation	20	During semester	Assessment includes preparation for seminars, active and fruitful participation in discussions, formulation of problems and proposing solutions to them, providing meaningful critical remarks and comments to other participants, answers to questions, presentations of legal information search in seminars, correctness and suitability of practical assignments, appropriate application of humanitarian law norms.
Group research work	10	During semester	During the semester, written group research work related to the analysis of the application and implementation of the international humanitarian law is carried out. Structure and scope of work; content (whether the analysis is comprehensive, systematic, with appropriate arguments); used sources; the fluency of language and use of legal terms are evaluated.
Examination	70	End of semester	Answers to closed questions in the form of a test, in which students must demonstrate both knowledge and understanding of the international humanitarian law and demonstrate newly acquired skills. Each correctly answered question out of 10 is evaluated by 1 point (multiplied by 0.7).

Author	**Year of publication**	**Title**	**Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication**	**Publishing place and house or web link**
Compulsory reading				
H-J. Heintze, A. Zwitter (eds.)	2011	International law and humanitarian assistance. A crosscut through legal issues pertaining humanitarianism.		Springer
International Committee of the Red Cross	2019	International Humanitarian Law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts - Recommitting to protection in armed conflict on the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions		Geneva: International Committee of the Red Cross https://reliefweb.int/report/world/international-humanitarian-law-and-challenges-contemporary-armed-conflicts-recommitting
SASSÒLI, M.; BOUVIER, A. A. (in co- op. with OLSON, L. M., et al.)	1999	How Does Law Protect in War?: Cases, Documents and Teaching Materials on Contemporary Practice in International Humanitarian Law		Geneva: International Committee of the Red Cross
QURESHI, W.A.	2018	Untangling the complicated relationship between international humanitarian and human rights law in armed conflict		Penn State Journal of Law & International Affairs https://elibrary.law.psu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1181&context=jlia
Government of Switzerland	2014	Humanitarian Access in Situations of Armed Conflict: Handbook on the International Normative Framework & Practitioners' Manual	Version 2	https://reliefweb.int/report/world/humanitarian-access-situations-armed-conflict-handbook-international-normative
Optional reading				
		Harvard Humanitarian Initiative [interactive]		https://hhi.harvard.edu/

		International Committe of the Red Cross [interactive]		www.icrc.org
ŽILINSKAS, J. MAROZAS, T.	2016	Tarptautinė humanitarinė teisė (ginkluotojo konflikto)		Vilnius: Registrų centras
VADAPALAS, V. JARUKAITIS, I.	2000	Tarptautinės humanitarinės teisės įgyvendinimas Lietuvos Respublikoje		Vilnius: Eugrimas