

Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy

Course content

Along the lines of a fictitious case before the International Court of Justice, students will get to know the research methods in international law, the structure of legal argumentation, legal interpretation, good legal writing and oral advocacy skills. The course will also introduce how to approach questions in international law from the various perspectives: academic and lawyering. The course ends with a mock trial presentation before a bench of selected judges. Students will act in teams as either applicants or respondents or judges (if applicable) and be judged by international law experts.

Learning outcomes

Students will be familiarized with research, writing and advocacy skills in the area of international law. The course focuses the practice of those skills: various small exercises (written or oral) will be conducted in class. Students will experience in-depth how international legal sources and methods are used and applied, how lawyers operate in international practice, and how arguments are similar or different depending on the forum.

Admission

Admission is mandatory for students enrolled in the L.L.M. [Public International Law](#) (master's - 1 1/2 years). It is also open for students enrolled in the 5-years Master of Law (master i rettsvitenskap) at the University of Oslo. Students enrolled in the LL.M. programme in Public International Law will be given priority to this course.

The examination in this course is not available for external candidates. Only students admitted to the course may sit for the examination.

Prerequisites

No obligatory prerequisites beyond the minimum requirements for entrance to higher education in Norway.

Overlap

10 credits against [JUR5912 - International Law in Practice - Mock Trial](#).

Teaching

Teaching will consist of 20 hours of seminars.

Teaching takes place throughout the semester.

Exam information

The final grade consists of an oral presentation during the final seminar and one written assignment. The assignment will encompass solving problem based questions, i.e. writing briefs for a fictitious case.

Students who fail or do not deliver the assignment will not be allowed to take the oral exam.

More details about the written assignment will be published on the information page for this course (click on current semester).

Exam resources

No special exam resources are allowed.

Language of examination

English

Assessment and grading

Students are awarded either a passing or failing grade. The pass/fail scale is applied as an independent scale with only two possible results.

Explanations and appeals

Students can request an explanation of their grades, and can also appeal against their grades or make a complaint about formal examination errors. Read more about [explanations and appeals](#)

Possibility of make-up exams and re-takes

Students who due to illness or other valid reason of absence were unable to sit for their final exams may apply for participation in make-up exams. Make-up exams are arranged either later in the same semester or early in the semester following the exam in question. Documentation of valid reasons for absence from the regular exam must be submitted upon application to participate in make-up exams.

Students who have failed an exam and students who wish to re-take an exam to achieve a better grade may not participate in make-up exams, but must re-take the exam when it is regularly scheduled.

Withdrawing from exams and limits on re-takes

A student can sit for this exam up to 3 times. If a student wishes to withdraw from the exam, s/he must do this in StudentWeb at least two weeks prior to the first day of the exam. Failure to do so will be counted as one of the three opportunities to sit for the exam.

Exam options for students with special needs

Students may apply for access to alternative exam resources or exam forms on the basis of chronic illness and/or special needs that create a marked disadvantage to other students in the exam situation. Mothers who are breastfeeding may apply for extra time to complete the exam.

Evaluation of this course

Feedback from our students is essential to us in our efforts to ensure and further improve the high quality of our programmes and courses. As a student at the University of Oslo you will therefore be asked to participate in various types of evaluation of our courses, facilities and services. All courses are subject to continuous evaluation. At regular intervals we also ask students on a particular course to participate in a more comprehensive, in-depth evaluation of this course, a so called "periodic evaluation".

Contact us

The Faculty of Law

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