



Masterclass **Conflict and Security Law**

Unfriendly peacetime acts

New methods of warfare in the 21st century

Maastricht University

Department of International Law

16 – 27 June 2025



Maastricht University

LAW.next

#Let's meet

About the course

This two-week professional training course for legal professionals aims:

1. to provide a comprehensive review of the relevant areas of public international law that relate to conflict and security; and
2. to examine current developments and challenges in these fields by applying them to real-world legal problems.

The course takes an innovative approach based on the problem-based learning methods that are central to the educational philosophy of Maastricht University. Participants are expected and encouraged to actively engage with the teaching materials and with each other in guided seminars. Lectures provide the necessary context and invite academic reflection.

The teaching is centred around complex cases inspired by real-life situations and entailing multiple overlapping legal questions. All these questions fit within two overarching themes: **(1) unfriendly peacetime acts and (2) new methods of warfare in the 21st century.**

The course will have a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 35 participants.

Venue

The first week of the course takes place at the Faculty of Law of Maastricht University (Bouillonstraat 1-3, 6211 LH Maastricht). We will make use of a lecture room in Kapoenstraat 2, adjacent to the main building.

In the second week, we will meet at the Van der Valk Hotel, Nijverheidsweg 35, 6227AL Maastricht.

The final dinner will be in central Maastricht.





Preliminary course programme

The course takes place over ten days in two weeks. In the morning, there will be lectures and seminars. The lectures provide reflection as well as a comprehensive overview of the law and legal issues, while the seminars are focused on discussion and application of the law. After lunch, participants will prepare for the next day's assignment through a one-hour structured pre-discussion led by a tutor, followed by self-study and case preparation.*

*While the programme themes are set, specific topics are indicative and may be subject to change as the programme is finalised.

Week 1

Monday 16 June 2025 - Faculty of Law, Kapoenstraat 2, room 1.009

Time	Type of session	Description and topics
9:00 – 10:00	Introductory lecture	Introduction to themes and explanation of the course programme
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break	
10:30 – 12:30	Introduction to Themes and Case 1	The legal frameworks on conflict and security General international law on peace and security Article 2 UN Charter: non-intervention, use of force State responsibility and attribution
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:30	Pre-discussion of Case 1	
14:30 – 17:00	Self-study and preparation of Case 1	IHL and HR obligations in integrated chains of decision-making



Preliminary course programme

Tuesday 17 June 2025 - Faculty of Law, Kapoenstraat 2, room 1.009

Time	Type of session	Description and topics
9:00 – 11:00	Seminar on Case 1	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 12:30	Lecture	Applicability of IHL Extraterritorial jurisdiction IHL and human rights in the 21st century
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:30	Pre-discussion of Case 2	Occupation and detention Urban warfare
14:30 – 17:00	Self-study and preparation of Case 2	

Wednesday 18 June 2025 - Faculty of Law, Kapoenstraat 2, room 1.009

Time	Type of session	Description and topics
9:00 – 11:00	Seminar on Case 2	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 12:30	Lecture	Defending and attacking in urban warfare
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:30	Pre-discussion of Case 3	Information warfare: spreading disinformation and interference in domestic orders
14:30 – 17:00	Self-study and preparation of Case 3	



Preliminary course programme

Thursday 19 June 2025 - Faculty of Law, Kapoenstraat 2, room 1.009

Time	Type of session	Description and topics
9:00 – 11:00	Seminar on Case 3	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 12:30	Lecture	State responsibility and attribution Hybrid threats, including cyberwarfare
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:30	Pre-discussion of Case 4	Cyberwarfare and cyberattacks
14:30 – 17:00	Self-study and preparation of Case 4	

Friday 20 June 2025 - Faculty of Law, Kapoenstraat 2, room 1.009

Time	Type of session	Description and topics
9:00 – 11:00	Seminar on Case 4	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 12:30	Lecture	Law of international organisations; multinational operations
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:30	Pre-discussion of Case 5	Case: analysis of unfriendly acts which do not meet the threshold of use of force (military exercises on full sea; sabotage of installations and infrastructure at sea)
14:30 – 17:00	Self-study and preparation of Case 5	



Preliminary course programme

Week 2

Monday 23 June 2025 (Van der Valk hotel, Nijverheidsweg 35)

Time	Type of session	Description and topics
9:00 – 11:00	Seminar on Case 5	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 12:30	Lecture	Law of the sea (capita selecta) Sanctions and countermeasures
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:30	Pre-discussion of Case 6	Circumvention of sanctions; Arms transfers and human rights litigation
14:30 – 17:00	Self-study and preparation of Case 6	

Tuesday 24 June 2025 (Van der Valk hotel, Nijverheidsweg 35)

Time	Type of session	Description and topics
9:00 – 11:00	Seminar on Case 6	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 12:30	Lecture	Non-intervention, attribution and non-state actors
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:30	Pre-discussion of Case 7	Case: actions by non-state actors with uncertain links to states
14:30 – 17:00	Self-study and preparation of Case 7	



Preliminary course programme

Wednesday 25 June 2025 (Van der Valk hotel, Nijverheidsweg 35)

Time	Type of session	Description and topics
9:00 – 11:00	Seminar on Case 7	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 12:30	Lecture	International criminal law
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:30	Pre-discussion of Case 8	Cooperation with the ICC and the UN
14:30 - 17:00	Self-study and preparation of Case 8	

Thursday 26 June 2025 (Van der Valk hotel, Nijverheidsweg 35)

Time	Type of session	Description and topics
9:00 – 11:00	Seminar on Case 8	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 12:30	Lecture	Collaboration between international organisations
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:30	Pre-discussion of Case 9	Transfers of authority in multinational operations
14:30 - 17:00	Self-study and preparation of Case 9	



Preliminary course programme

Friday 27 June 2025 (Van der Valk hotel, Nijverheidsweg 35)

Time	Type of session	Description and topics
9:00 – 11:00	Seminar on Case 9	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 12:30	Closing lecture	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:30	Closing seminar	
14:30 – 15:00	Closing ceremony	
18:30 – 20:30	Closing dinner	City center Maastricht

Teaching staff

Prof. Dr. Jure Vidmar

Professor Jure Vidmar holds the Chair of Public International Law at Maastricht University. He is also a Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, Member of the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in Geneva, and is appointed to the Pool of Arbitrators and Trade and Sustainable Development Experts under the EU's Trade Agreements with Third Countries. He has also served as Judge ad hoc of the European Court of Human Rights.

Prior to coming to Maastricht, Prof Vidmar taught at the University of Oxford where he was most recently a member of St John's College. He has also been affiliated with Harvard Law School, University of Amsterdam, University of Nottingham, University of Pretoria and Harvard Kennedy School.

Prof Vidmar has published widely in several areas of international law. His books include *Territorial Status in International Law* (Oxford, Hart, 2024), *Research Handbook on Secession* (Elgar, 2022, with Sarah McGibbon and Lea Raible), *European Populism and Human Rights* (Leiden, Nijhoff, 2020), *Democratic Statehood in International Law: The Emergence of New States in Post-Cold War Practice* (Oxford, Hart, 2013, Runner-up for the Birks Prize for Outstanding Legal Scholarship in 2014) and *Hierarchy in International Law: The Place of Human Rights* (Oxford, OUP, 2012, with Erika de Wet). Prof Vidmar also sits on the editorial boards of several scholarly journals and is the editor-in-chief of the *Hague Yearbook of International Law*.

Prof. Dr. Liesbeth Lijnzaad

Professor dr. E. Lijnzaad is endowed professor Practice of International Law (part time). She is also judge at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg.

Prior to joining ITLOS, she was the Legal Adviser of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and head of its international law department. In that capacity she has acted as Agent for the Netherlands in cases before the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the International Criminal Court. She has been the co-chair of the UNGA's Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (2010 - 2015). She is a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and of the San Remo Institute of International Humanitarian Law.

Her research interests include: general international law, international humanitarian law, law of the sea, sources of international law (customary law, law of treaties), resources law (oil and gas, deep seabed mining), boundary limitation, as well as feminism and international law. She studied law and history, receiving master's degrees in international law (1985) and Dutch law (1987) from the University of Amsterdam.

Dr. Wim Muller

Wim Muller is an Assistant Professor of Public International Law. He joined Maastricht University in 2015. He has worked at the universities of Manchester, Essex, Leiden, and Amsterdam and for the Bosnian delegation to the International Court of Justice. He is a Doctor of Laws of the European University Institute (2013), where he researched the Chinese approach and practice of public international law.

His teaching and research interests include public international law, the law of armed conflict, human rights, international criminal law, international dispute settlement, and the politics of international law. He is currently conducting research on regional approaches to international law and the law on urban warfare.

Dr. Alexandre Skander Galand

Alexandre Skander Galand is an Assistant Professor of International Law at Maastricht University. He is an international law scholar, specialised in international criminal law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Dr. Galand is a member of the Barreau du Québec (Canada) and holds a PhD in International Law from the European University Institute (EUI). Before joining Maastricht University, he held postdoctoral research positions at the Hertie School, EUI, University of Oxford and Koç University and has been a visiting fellow at the University of Essex and the University of Turin.

Dr. Galand is Editor-in-Chief of the Oxford Reports on International Human Rights Law / UN Treaty Bodies and co-coordinator of the European Society of International Law's Interest Group on International Criminal Justice. He has consulted for the Case Matrix Network and worked for the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute as part of the War Crimes Justice Project.

Dr. Galand is currently working on two projects: (1) The Contributions of the UN Treaty Bodies Case Law to International Human Rights Law, and (2) The Shifting Paradigms of International Law through Adjudication and Normative Interplay.

Dr. Craig Eggett

Dr. Craig Eggett is Assistant Professor of International Law. He holds an LL.B. (hons) from Durham Law School (UK), an LL.M. (cum laude) in International Laws, and a PhD from Maastricht University. Craig's teaching and research concerns public international law, the law of international organisations, and international criminal law. He has particular expertise in the law of the United Nations and the theory and sources of international law.

Craig is Vice Chair of the Board of Examiners and Programme Coordinator of the LLM programme in International Laws at the Faculty of Law. He also coaches the moot court teams for the Jessup and International Criminal Court competitions. Craig is also involved in some external human rights-related projects. Prior to coming to Maastricht, Craig worked at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.

Cost

The tuition fee is € 2975.60 per person. Included are two weeks of teaching, coffee and lunch each day as well as the final dinner. Participants who have attended the full course will receive a certificate.

Certain institutional applicants may be eligible for a discounted rate.

Registration information

Registration is possible here: [Register here!](#)

The deadline for registration is 10 May 2025. Please note that in case of fewer than 15 registrations, the course will not take place. If this happens, any fees paid will be refunded.

