

**University of Vienna
School of Law****Winter Semester 2023/2024****Course Title: Legal Foundations of World Politics****Instructor: Prof. em. Hanspeter Neuhold**

Purpose and summary of the course

The objective of this course is to enable students to better understand the problems posed by some of the key legal principles governing relations between states and other subjects/actors of today's international system. These legal rules – the prohibition of the threat or use of force, non-intervention in internal and external affairs, the peaceful settlement of international disputes and self-determination of peoples – will be discussed against the background of political variables by which they were and are shaped. Practical examples and cases will primarily be taken from post-Cold-War European history, above all the conflicts in the wake of the disintegration of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Russia's on-going "special military operation" against Ukraine, to which all four principles were/are relevant.

Theoretical approach and method

A "policy-oriented" approach to international law, including the non-legal problems to be solved by legal rules, will be adopted. Presentations by the instructor will be combined with discussions on the basis of assigned readings and questions raised by the instructor and students. Interaction and participatory learning will be encouraged.

Literature

A reader and copies of the power point slides used in the course will be made available by the instructor.

Exam

The final written exam will consist of a number of questions focusing on the basic "messages" of the course and a short essay on a general issue, for which students will be offered a choice between two or three topics.

Participation in discussions will also be reflected in the final mark/grade (20%)

LL.M. in International Law - University of Vienna, Law School

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I. A Politically-Oriented Concept of International Law: the Normative Balance between Conflicting Interests

II. Three approaches to limiting the use of armed force in international relations

III. The Prohibition of the Threat or Use of Force in International Relations

IV. Non-Intervention in Internal and External Affairs

V. The Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes

VI. Self-Determination of Peoples

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