

Course Name - course code

International Peace Operations – Semester 2 – LW 5123

Irish Centre for Human Rights

School of Law

Academic year 2026/2027

LL.M. in International Peace Operations, Humanitarian Law and Conflict

Other LL.M. programmes at Irish Centre for Human Rights

Provisional Course Outline/Syllabus – Subject to change

Objective	Aim: the aim of this course is to critically analyze the principles of peacekeeping and apply these to a number of contemporary and past missions.
Lecturer	Dr Mais Qandeel Irish Centre for Human Rights Email: mais.qandeel@universityofgalway.ie
Times	Friday 2-5 (subject to change) Semester 2
Overall Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of this course you will be able to: • Discuss and evaluate the principles of peace support operations; • Explain the difference between traditional peacekeeping, peace enforcement; enforcement action under the UN Charter, and peace support operations; • Critically evaluate the political framework for peace operations. • Examine and critically assess the UN Charter, command and control of authorized and approved UN operations; • Critically analyse the Use of force under international law and its relevance to peacekeeping; • Critically analyze and discuss a number of contemporary and past peace operations; • Explain the legal basis and framework governing peace support operations; • Critically discuss the political constraints on peace support operations; • Examine the role of regional organizations such as NATO and the EU in peace support operations; • Compare and contrast peacekeeping operations around the world; • Critically evaluate civilian-military relations on peace support missions.
Format	The course comprises a combination of seminars as well as guest lectures and the a field trip. This is a 10 credit course for students taking the LL.M. in peace support operations. It is also an optional 10 credit course for students taking other LL.M. programmes. Students are expected to read material in advance, and to engage in debate and discussion of the relevant issues during seminars. THERE WILL BE A VISIT TO THE IRISH DEFENCE FORCES. THIS WILL INCLUDE TALKS ON PEACEKEEPING AND IHL ISSUES BY DEFENCE FORCES PERSONNEL, ALONG WITH A DISPLAY OF WEAPONS YOU ARE LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER IN THE FIELD.

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	Due to the field trip, there will be no seminar 8. Further details will be provided in due course.
Programme(s)	LL.M. programmes, full-time and part-time
Course Material	A list of course material will be available at http://blackboard.nuigalway.ie Additional resources available at media services
Core Texts in bold	General reading: • Paul D. Williams with Alex J. Bellamy, <i>Understanding Peacekeeping</i>, 3rd Edition, (2021) Polity publishers, Cambridge. ISBN 13 978-0-7456-8671-4; 978-0-7456-8671-1 (pb) • United Nations, <i>The Future of Peacekeeping, New Models, and Related Capabilities</i>, October 2024, Independent Study commissioned by the United Nations Department of Peace Operations. El-Ghassim Wane, Professor Paul D. Williams, Professor Ai Kihara-Hunt. • <i>Documents on the Law of UN Peace Operations</i> (OUP), Bruce Oswald, Helen Durham, and Adrian Bates. • <i>Advanced Introduction to International Conflict and Security Law</i>, N D White, (Elgar publishers, 2014) • <i>Annual Review of Global Peace Operations</i> for the years 2006 to 2010. Published by Center on International Cooperation, NYU/Lynne Rienner, Boulder Colorado, USA and Richard Gowan and Ryan Rappa, <i>Global Peace Operations Review 2018</i>, Centre on International Cooperation NYU 2019. • Alain Doss, <i>Great Expectations: UN Peacekeeping, Civilian Protection and the Use of Force</i>, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, GSPC Geneva Papers – Research Series No. 4, December 2011 http://reliefweb.int/report/world/great-expectations-un-peacekeeping-civilian-protection-and-use-force#.T404Fqt1ibk.email • Koops, McQueen, Tardy, Williams, <i>The Oxford Handbook of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations</i>, Oxford University Press, 2015. 341.584 OXF • Christian Henderson, <i>The Use of Force and International Law</i>, CUP, 2018, esp. Chapter 5 on UN Peacekeeping and the Use of Force pp.167-202. • Meredith, M., <i>The State of Africa – a history of fifty years of independence</i>, London: Free Press, 2005. • International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS), <i>The Responsibility to Protect</i>, Vols. I and II, International Development Research Centre, 2001. • Leuven Manual on the International Law Applicable to Peace Operations, CUP 2017. • Murphy, R. <i>UN Peacekeeping in Lebanon, Somalia and Kosovo: Legal and Operational Issues in Context</i>, Cambridge University Press, 2007. • Simma, Bruno et al (eds.), <i>The Charter of the United Nations – A Commentary (1st or 2nd. Or 3rd. Edition)</i>, Chapter VI on Pacific Settlement of Disputes and Chapter VII on Action with respect to

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Threats to the Peace, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012).

- **Thakur, R, *United Nations, Peace and Security*, CUP, 2nd. Ed 2017.**
- White, N. and Klassen, K.(eds), *The UN, human rights and post-conflict situations*, (Manchester University Press, 2005).
- C. Lekha Sriram, O. Martin-Ortega and J. Herman, *War, Conflict and Human Rights*, Routledge (2010).
- ***Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response*, The Sphere Project, Geneva Switzerland – see www.sphereproject.org/**
- Wills, S., *Protecting Civilians – The Obligations of Peacekeepers*, Oxford: OUP, (2009).
- Adebajo, A. *UN Peacekeeping in Africa*, Lynne Rinner, 2012.
- Burke, Rosin. *Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN Military Contingents: Moving beyond the Current Status Quo and Responsibility under International Law*, Brill/Nijhoff, (2014).
- Weiss, Thomas G. and Daws, Sam, *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations*, Oxford University Press, 2007
- **Wolfrum, R (ed), *Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law*, Oxford University Press, (2012) available electronically through NUI Galway library.**
- *Pathways for Peace Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict*, UN World Bank 2018.
- SIPRI, *ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EUROPEAN UNION CIVILIAN CSDP MISSIONS INVOLVED IN SECURITY SECTOR REFORM*, The Cases of Afghanistan, Mali and Niger, (Jaïr van der Lijn, Gretchen Baldwin, Romain Malejacq, Adam Sandor, Pauline Poupart, Makama bawa Oumarou and Saidou Oumarou Mahamane), 2024.

United Nations Reports

Check UN website for Secretary General's reports to the Security Council and Security Council resolutions and mandates.

- United Nations Security Council, **Future of the Pact, Recommendations for Security Council Action**, December 2024.
- United Nations, Security Council Report, ***The Peacebuilding Commission at 20: Progress, Challenges, and the Road Ahead***, 2025, No. 1 13 March 2025.
- United Nations, ***The Future of Peacekeeping, New Models, and Related Capabilities***, October 2024, Independent Study commissioned by the United Nations Department of Peace Operations. El-Ghassim Wane, Professor Paul D. Williams, Professor Ai Kihara-Hunt.
- ***UN Security Council Handbook- a user's guide to practice and procedure*, Security Council Report, 2019.**
- UN Security Council, ***UN Secretary-General's Annual Report on Protection of Civilians*, 14 May 2024**. Doc. S/2024/385.
- UN, Policy: ***The Protection of Civilians in United Nations Peacekeeping***, UN Dept of Peace Operations Ref. 2019.17 (2019).
- UN, Policy 25 Oct 2019, ***Authority, Command and Control in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations***, Dept of Peace Operations/Dept

	of Operational Support, Ref. 2019.23. (2019). • UN Policy, <i>Joint Mission Analysis Centres (JMAC)</i>, UN Dept of Peace Operations Ref. 2020.06 (2020). • United Nations, <i>United Nations Infantry Battalion Manual (UNIBAM)</i> (2 nd ed.), Department of Peacekeeping Operations. 2020. • <i>Report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations on uniting our strengths for peace: politics, partnership and people, A/70/95–S/2015/446, 17 June 2015-</i> sometimes referred to as HIPPO Report. • UN Women, <i>Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace - A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325</i>, 2016. • <i>United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, Principles and Guidelines</i>, UN, Dept. of Peacekeeping Operations/Dept of Field Support, New York, 2008 ('Capstone Document') (available on line). • <i>Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping Operations</i>, UN 2003. • <i>Comprehensive report on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peace operation-</i> Report of the Secretary-General, A/61/858 13 April 2007. • E. Eide, A. Kaspersen, R. Kent, K von Hippel, <i>Report on Integrated Missions</i> – Independent Study for the Expanded UN ECHA Core Group, May 2005. • In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all – Report of the Secretary General, UN Document A/59/2005, 21 March 2005. • Ban Ki-moon, 'Implementing the Responsibility to Protect: Report of the Secretary-General', A/63/677, 12 January 2009. • <i>A more secure world: our shared responsibility</i>, <i>Report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change</i>, UN Document A/59/565, 2 December 2004. • <i>Secretary-General's Bulletin on Observance by UN forces of international humanitarian law</i>, UN Document ST/SGB/1993/3 of 6 August 1999, 1 June 1994. • <i>Report of the Commission of Inquiry established pursuant to Resolution 885 (1993) to investigate attacks on UNOSOM II personnel</i>, UN Document S/1994/653. • <i>Report of the Secretary-General on Administrative and Budgetary Aspects of the Financing of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations</i>, UN Document A/51/389. • <i>Report of the Secretary-General on the implementations of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations</i>, UN Document A/56/732, 21 December 2001. • <i>A Review of United Nations Peacekeeping</i>, 3rd ed., New York: United Nations, 1996. • United Nations, <i>Report of the Panel on UN Peacekeeping</i>
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	<i>Operations (Brahimi Report)</i>, UN, A/55/305-S/2000/809, 23 August 2000. • Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/35 - The fall of Srebrenica, General Assembly A/54/549, 15 November 1999. • Report of the Independent Inquiry into the action of the United Nations during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, Security Council S/1999/1257, 16 December 1999. • United Nations, <i>The United Nations and Somalia 1992-1996</i>, The United Nations Blue Book Series, Vol. VIII, New York: United Nations, 1996. • United Nations, <i>Secretary-General's Report on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict</i>, S/1999/957 of 8 September 1999. • Report of the Military Staff Committee, General Principles Governing the Organisation of the Armed Forces Made Available to the Security Council by Member Nations of the UN, UN Security Council Official Reports Supp. (no.1), UN Document. S/336, 1947. • Peacekeeping Best Practices – Best Practices Unit, Department of Peacekeeping Operations. • S. Chesterman, 'The Use of Force in UN Peace Operations', 2004. • Handbook on United Nations Multi-dimensional Peacekeeping Operations, 2003.
Assessment	Assignments and dissertation - Assessment/examination will be based on a written assignment of five thousand words (excluding footnotes and bibliography). Date for submission is Thursday 18th December 2025 (see LLM guidelines).