

„The Changing Nature of Peace and Security“

Seminar (096925)

Summer Semester 2023

The United Nations, founded in 1945, today has 193 Member States. Tasked with the maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council of the United Nations plays a prominent role in the United Nations as system of collective security. It is the Security Council's responsibility to react to international crises by either peaceful means (Chapter VI of the UN-Charter) or even forceful measures (Chapter VII of the UN-Charter), once it has determined a breach or threat to peace and security.

This class takes a closer look at Chapter VII and especially Article 39 of the UN-Charter. It asks if the content and meaning of "international peace and security" has changed over the years, especially in light of the growing influence of international human rights. Is peace just the absence of war or are there more elements to take into consideration? How does the Security Council define "international peace and security" and a breach or threat thereof? As the determination of the Security Council of a situation as breach or threat to peace and security leads to wide-ranging competences according to Chapter VII of the UN-Charter, the aforementioned question is of crucial importance. At the same time the questions arise: what if the Council does not act, f.e. because of the blockade by a veto-holding member; or: who controls the decisions of the Council?

The class will start with introductory classes on the United Nations, the Security Council, and Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. Participants are expected to choose from one of the following topics (max. two persons per topic = team work!), prepare a 6-8 page summary (plus bibliography) on the subject and present it to the class via Powerpoint (or other) Presentation. Also, they are asked to take over a commentary for a different topic. The class will be held in English on **Thursdays, 14.00 – 16.00 h (c.t.)**. Successful participants will receive 5 ECTS-credits and a "Proof of Legal Language Skills in English" pursuant to § 8 para. 2 of the study regulations for the study of law with the first legal examination of 25 March 2015 – *Fremdsprachenfachkompetenz*. The final grade will be determined according to the summary paper (1/3), the presentation (1/3), additional points can be achieved through an active participation in the discussions and the commentary (1/3).

If you are interested in International Public Law and have a good command of the English language, please register with [Campus Management](#). **In addition**, please send **three choices of topics** via Email until **18 April 2023** to Peggy Wittke (peg@zedat.fu-berlin.de).

Topics

1. The Humanitarian Tragedy in Somalia: Resolution 794 (1992) of the Security Council (Summary and Presentation due on 8 May, 12.00 h, via Email)
2. The Genocide in Rwanda (1994) (Summary and Presentation due on 8 May, 12.00 h, via Email)
3. The Debate over Accountability: The Massacre of Srebrenica (1995) (Summary and Presentation due on 22 May, 12.00 h, via Email)
4. The Deadlocked Security Council I: The Case of Kosovo (1999) (Summary and Presentation due on 29 May, 12.00 h, via Email)
5. Chapter VII, Article 51 and Attacks by Non-state Actors (Summary and Presentation due on 5 June, 12.00 h, via Email)
6. The Fall of Saddam Hussein: The US-Iraq War (2003) and Its Implications for International Public Law (Summary and Presentation due on 12 June, 12.00 h, via Email)
7. The Crimean Crisis and the Response of the United Nations (2014) (Summary and Presentation due on 19 June, 12.00 h, via Email)
8. The Responsibility to Protect: An Emerging Norm? (Summary and Presentation due on 26 June, 12.00 h, via Email)
9. The Deadlocked Security Council II: The War in Ukraine (2022) (Summary and Presentation due on 3 July, 12.00 h, via Email)
10. The Security Council and Climate Change (Summary and Presentation due on 10 July, 12.00 h, via Email)
11. The Security Council and the COVID-19 Pandemic (Summary and Presentation due on 17 July, 12.00 h, via Email)

Preliminary Schedule

Class takes place Thursdays, 14 - 16h (c.t.), Room 4404 (Bo3)

	Date	Session
1	20 April 2023	Introduction to the United Nations System <i>Peggy Wittke</i>
2	27 April 2023	Peace and Security I <i>Peggy Wittke</i>
3	4 May 2023	Peace and Security II <i>Peggy Wittke</i>
4	11 May 2023	The Humanitarian Tragedy in Somalia: Resolution 794 (1992) of the Security Council <i>Comment</i> The Genocide in Rwanda (1994) <i>Comment</i>
5	18 May 2023	<i>No class (Himmelfahrt)</i>
6	25 May 2023	The Debate over Accountability: The Massacre of Srebrenica (1995) <i>Comment</i>
7	1 June 2023	The Deadlocked Security Council I: The Case of Kosovo (1999) <i>Comment</i>
8	8 June 2023	Chapter VII, Article 51 and Attacks by Non-State Actors <i>Comment</i>
9	15 June 2023	The Fall of Saddam Hussein: The US-Iraq War (2003) and Its Implications for International Public Law <i>Comment</i>
10	22 June 2023	The Crimean Crisis and the Response of the United Nations (2014) <i>Comment</i>
11	29 June 2023	The Responsibility to Protect: An Emerging Norm? <i>Comment</i>
12	6 July 2023	The Deadlocked Security Council II: The War in Ukraine (2022) <i>Comment</i>
13	13 July 2023	The Security Council and Climate Change <i>Comment</i>
14	20 July 2023	The Security Council and the COVID-19 Pandemic <i>Comment</i>