

DePaul University College of Law
Syllabus
Senior Seminar on International Criminal Law: Substantive
Professor M. Cherif Bassiouni

This seminar meets Thursdays, 5:50 - 7:30 pm, Room: 633 Lewis Center. Some classes will be extended to 8 p.m. as per the syllabus.

I. Required Book

M. CHERIF BASSIOUNI, INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW, 3RD ED., VOLUME I (2009 BRILL)¹

II. Methodology and Grading

1. This is an advanced seminar course. Please review the catalogue for the description of Seminar requirements which are hereby incorporated by reference.
2. The objects of an advanced seminar are in-depth research and the development of analytical skills which are reflected in a thoughtful and well-researched paper, which should read like a law review article. The paper should be approximately 30 pages long, exclusive of footnotes. Papers should be turned in December 19 to my assistant, Judith Wolford, Lewis, room 941.
3. Two oral presentations are required, consisting of the presentation of the student's paper topic. Classroom presence and participation in classroom discussion is also required. Failure to attend three class sessions, no matter what the reason, will result in an f/x.
4. The seminar will be conducted on the basis of class discussion of the topic assigned for each session. Advanced preparation for each session is therefore required.
5. See class schedule for reading assignments.
6. Public International Law is not a pre-requisite, but it is advisable.
7. Topics for the paper are to be assigned by the professor in consultation with the student.
8. The student must prepare two outlines of the paper (the first, 2-3 pages), due October 8, and (the second 5-7 pages), due October 29. The outlines are to be discussed in class, where each student will present his/her research.
9. The student should periodically check with the professor for any guidance needed in preparing the paper. At least one meeting should be scheduled.
10. Office hours without an appointment are one hour before each class and one hour after each class – otherwise by appointment. Telephone: 312-362-8332, room 942, Lewis

¹ A Note about the Textbook: textbooks (\$130.00 for his students only) are available for purchase from his assistant [Judith Wolford, Lewis 942, (312)362-5922] during business hours. **Warning: these texts are not returnable if you drop the class.**

**Senior Seminar on International Criminal Law: Substantive
Fall-Winter 2009 Semester
Professor M. Cherif Bassiouni**

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- August 27 The Sources, Subjects and Contents of International Criminal Law
(Session 1). Reading assignment, pp 1-204; **class will go to 8 p.m.**
- September 3 The Sources, Subjects and Contents of International Criminal Law
(Session 2). Reading assignment, pp 1-204; **class will go to 8 p.m.**
- September 10 Aggression, Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes
(Session 1). Reading assignment pp 205-530; **class will go to 8 p.m.**
- September 17 Aggression, Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes
(Session 2). Reading assignment pp 205-530; **class will go to 8 p.m.**
- September 24 NO CLASS
- October 1 Torture, Slavery, and Slave-related practices
Reading assignment pp. 535-658
- October 8 **Outline of papers (2-3 pages), to be presented and discussed in class**
- October 15 Terrorism
Reading assignment pp. 697-853
- October 22 The History of International Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions and the
ICC. Reading material to be distributed
- October 29 **Final draft for outline of papers (5-7 pages), to be presented and discussed
in class**
- November 5 *The Nuremberg Trials*. A film prepared by *Court T.V.* with substantive
commentary by experts. Discussion to be led by Mr. Steven Becker.
This class session will meet 5:50-8:00 pm
- November 12 International Criminal Tribunals for the Former-Yugoslavia (ICTY) and
Rwanda (ICTR), video presentation. Discussion led by Mr. Steven Becker.
This class session will meet 5:50-8:00 pm
- November 19 Last day of class. Remaining classes are cancelled for preparation of paper
- December 19 **Final papers due**

² See Note 1 on previous page.

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Suggested Seminar Subjects

These subjects should be applied to a specific topic, case, or legal proposition to exhibit advanced research and analytical skills (in other words, not a restatement of the law or a survey of the legal literature on the subject).

- The basis for international criminalization
- A critique of the Draft Code of Crimes Against the Peace and Security of Mankind
- The establishment of an international criminal court – United Nations efforts
- The establishment of an international criminal court – United States obstacles
- Defining aggression and prosecuting its offenders
- Genocide? What does “intend to destroy in whole or in part” mean?
- “Crimes Against Humanity” Need for a specialized convention?
- Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity in the jurisprudence of the ICTY and ICTR
- What are the differences between war crimes under the laws and customs of war, and the grave breaches of the Geneva Convention and Article 8 of the ICC Statute?
- Are violations of Common Article 3 and Protocol II of the Geneva Convention international crimes?
- Rape as a war crime and as a crime against humanity
- Is torture under the 1989 Convention applicable in times of war? If so, how to reconcile its contemporaneous application with the Geneva Conventions and customary international law?
- Contemporary slave-like practices
- Preventing and punishing international traffic in women and children for sexual exploitation
- The effectiveness of international mechanisms and bodies in preventing and controlling international traffic in drugs
- Legalizing or decriminalizing drugs: international implications in light of existing international terrorism
- The 1971 Montreal Convention and the Lockerbie Pan Am sabotage
- Curtailing abuses by diplomats and the diplomatic pouch when used for criminal purposes
- Protecting against certain environmental harms by international criminalization
- Controlling weapons of mass destruction
- The status of mercenaries in conventional and customary international criminal law
- Blocking of humanitarian aid as a war crime and as a crime against humanity in time of conflict
- International traffic and destruction of cultural property: is the present system effective?
- Criminalization of human rights violations
- The legal regime of controlling international terrorism
- Terrorism and weapons of mass destruction
- Cyber-terrorism
- Anti-terrorism measures and human and civil rights