

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2019

International humanitarian law 420 (PUR 420)

Qualification Undergraduate

Faculty [Faculty of Law](#)

Module credits 10.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 2 lectures per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Public Law

Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

*For LLB

- (a) What is international humanitarian law (the law of war)?: the distinction between ius ad bellum and ius in bello
- (b) The historical development and sources of international humanitarian law (IHL)
- (c) Different types of armed conflict: The distinction between international and non-international armed conflicts
- (d) Distinction between combatants and civilians
- (e) The prisoner of war (POW) status: soldiers, spies, mercenaries and guerrillas
- (f) Conduct of hostilities: legal restraints on how war is to be waged (including the prohibition of certain weapons and the targets that may be engaged during hostilities)
- (g) The distinction between genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes
- (h) Winners or losers: war, international politics and the implementation of IHL
- (i) The protection of women and children during armed conflict
- (j) Accountability or impunity: the prosecution of war crimes by national courts, ad hoc tribunals (the ICTY and ICTR) and the International Criminal Court (ICC)
- (k) The devil made me do it: superior orders and command responsibility during war
- (l) The role of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

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