1. **Title of the module**

LAWS8440 / LAWS8441 (LW844) Legal Aspects of Contemporary International Problems

1. **School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**

Kent Law School

1. **The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

Level 7

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

20 credits (10 ECTS)

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Autumn or Spring

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**

None

1. **The programmes of study to which the module contributes**

Canterbury – optional to the:

LLM in (Specialisation)

PG Diploma in (Specialisation)

PG Certificate in Law

MA in International Law with International Relations

Brussels – compulsory to the:

LLM and MA in (Specialisation)

PG Diploma in (Specialisation)

PG Certificate in (Specialisation)

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.
On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
2. Demonstrate a sophisticated knowledge and understanding of the concepts, principles and rules of international law and transnational law and examine their interaction with contemporary international events.
3. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the relevance of international law and transnational law to particular international policy problems.
4. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the possibilities and the limitations of legal method in international disputes.
5. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the relationship between international law and international politics.
6. Critically analyse the theory as practice of public international law.
7. Anticipate and map different legal arguments as directed toward particular global policy challenges.
8. **The intended generic learning outcomes.
On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
9. Critically evaluate the application and practice of law within and across different contexts.
10. Identify relevant scholarly issues from complex factual situations.
11. Undertake independent and original research and formulate reasoned and critical arguments.
12. Analyse complex problems from a range of different theoretical perspectives and disciplinary approaches.
13. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

There are a number of ways to study the field of international law. It can be treated doctrinally as a system of rules from various sources – such as treaties, state practices that are seen to have the binding force of law, and general principles shared across domestic jurisdictions – built up over time to regulate interactions between states and other entities. It can be studied as a historical phenomenon, emerging out of a colonial history with contemporary implications. It can also be studied as an (imperfect) approach to addressing international ‘problems’, placing international law in broader social, political, and historical contexts as one possible source of ‘solutions’. This course starts from international law as an approach, highlighting the field’s limits and possibilities in relation to a set of contemporary inter- and trans-national concerns, which may include the use of armed force, responses to emerging security threats, and unresolved territorial disputes. The course focuses on a changing set of key themes in international law, such as sovereignty, statehood, self-determination, and the regulation of armed conflict. It explores these overlapping themes as they emerge across several issues and case studies, bringing international law into a relationship with contemporary geopolitics and the field’s historical inheritance.

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**
* Anghie, Anthony, *Imperialism, Sovereignty and the Making of International Law*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004).
* Aust, Anthony, Handbook of International Law, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).
* Crawford, James and Martti Koskenniemi (eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to International Law*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).
* Klabbers, Jan, *International Law*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013).
* Shaw, Malcolm N, *International Law 6th ed.*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008).
1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total contact hours: 20

Private study hours: 180

Total study hours: 200

1. **Assessment methods**
	1. Main assessment methods

	Canterbury:
* Essay of no more than 5000 words (100%)

Brussels:

* Essay of no more than 5000 words (100%)

13.2 Reassessment methods

Reassessment Instrument: 100% coursework

1. **Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)**

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| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Lectures  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  | X |
| Seminars  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Essay | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

1. **Inclusive module design**

The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

1. **Accessible resources and curriculum**
2. Preference will be given to electronic resources that meet minimum accessibility standards and support the use of assistive technologies.
3. Module outlines will be made accessible before the module starts.
4. Prioritised reading will be specified sufficiently in advance to accommodate the provision of alternative formats and support those with a slow reading speed.
5. Lecture/seminar slides/outlines will be made available in electronic format in advance to allow all students to prepare (particularly students with notetaking difficulties).
6. In accordance with the KLS school-level statement on Lecture Capture, in Canterbury, teaching sessions will not be recorded to assist notetaking as they are heavily discussion-based and may contain sensitive material. However, the module convenor will notify students in advance of any lectures that will be recorded. In Brussels, recording will be at the discretion of the module convenor.
7. **Learning, teaching and assessment methods**

The inclusive practices in the guidance (Annex B Appendix A, section b (1) and (2)) have all been considered in order to support all students in their assessments on this module.

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered**

Canterbury and Brussels

1. **Internationalisation**

The content, materials and discussions conducted in this course will explicitly aim at offering a global reading of both international law and the current concepts, norms and issues examined. Students will be invited throughout the course to make connections between local and international normative frameworks and problems and to critically engage with the broader reach of laws and legal decision making in our global times.

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**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

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| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| 14/06/2017 |  | September 2017 |  |  |
| 06/01/2020 | Minor | September 2020 | 15 |  |