

EXAM – Public International Law

NOVA School of Law – Year 2

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Please READ carefully the rules:

Choose THREE of the four essay topics indicated below.

You have three hours to address each topic. That means you should dedicate maximum one hour per topic. You are expected to be familiar enough with the materials to be able to do address each topic in a clear and concise manner, with a good understanding of the most important aspects of each topic, on which you should have an **argument of your own** (you do not have to agree with the arguments made in class, but you do have to show that you are aware of them). Having an argument is crucial. That means that **purely descriptive answers will not receive the passing grade.**

Elaborate as much as possible on a topic in as few words as possible. That means that short sentences must be privileged over long ones and that your ideas must be framed in a clear and concise manner. That also means that you are expected to **avoid large quotes from other sources** and always privilege explaining the ideas taken from other sources with your own words (while properly referencing the sources in brackets).

Do not copy-paste entire sentences from the PowerPoint slides, that will be considered as plagiarism.

CHOOSE THREE OF THE FOLLOWING ESSAY TOPICS (each question carries 33,3% of the grade):

- ✓ ↪ 1. Should states have universal jurisdiction over certain issues? You are expected to give examples when answering this question, while weighing the 'pros' and 'cons' of universal jurisdiction.
- ✓ ↪ 2. Is recognition by other states important for the existence of states under public international law? You are expected to give examples when answering this question.

↳ 3. How did public international law approach colonialism before the World War II? You are expected to give examples, while highlighting specific public international legal arguments made in relation to colonialism during the most important epochs mentioned in class (until World War II).

4. Provide an analysis of this statement: "The legal rules governing the use of force between states is one of the most fundamental, and the most controversial, aspects of international law. An essential part of this subject is the question of when and to what extent a state may lawfully use force against another in self-defence." (James A. Green, 'The International Court of Justice and Self-Defence in International Law', Hart Publishing, 2009).

You are expected to explain why self-defence can be considered as a controversial aspect of public international law.

Good luck!