The Politics of International Justice and the ICC Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Political Science and International Relations	**Duration**	5 Days
Base Fee	$1,500 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

The Politics of International Justice and the ICC Training Course explores the intricate and often contested politics of international justice, with a specific focus on the International Criminal Court (ICC). It's designed to provide participants with a critical understanding of how geopolitical interests, state sovereignty, and international law intersect to shape accountability for atrocity crimes. We'll move beyond the legal texts to examine the real-world challenges the ICC faces, including cooperation failures, geographical bias, and political pressures that influence its investigations and prosecutions. This program is for those seeking to gain a sophisticated perspective on the role of international courts in a complex, multipolar world.
The course is a deep dive into the complementarity principle, the challenges of state cooperation, and the impact of powerful states on the ICC's mandate. We'll analyze historical and contemporary case studies to unpack the strategic litigation and diplomatic maneuvers that surround high-profile cases. You'll gain a deeper appreciation for the nexus between peace and justice and the role of international tribunals in transitional justice mechanisms. By the end of this training, participants will be equipped with the knowledge to navigate the complex dynamics of global governance and contribute to the ongoing discourse on accountability for war crimes and human rights violations.

Programme Curriculum

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Course **Duration**

5 days

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Analyze the legal framework and jurisdictional scope of the ICC.
2. Deconstruct the political dynamics influencing ICC investigations and prosecutions.
3. Critically evaluate the principle of complementarity and its practical application.
4. Assess the challenges of state cooperation and non-cooperation with the ICC.
5. Examine the role of the ICC within the broader landscape of international criminal justice and ad hoc tribunals.
6. Understand the prosecution of atrocity crimes including genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
7. Analyze the impact of geopolitical interests on international justice.
8. Evaluate the effectiveness of the ICC as a deterrent for mass atrocities.
9. Explore the role of victims' participation and reparations in ICC proceedings.
10. Differentiate between the ICC and other international judicial bodies like the International Court of Justice (ICJ).
11. Discuss the historical context of international tribunals from Nuremberg to the present.
12. Engage in a critical debate on the legitimacy and reform of the ICC.
13. Apply theoretical knowledge to real-world case studies and simulations.

Organizational Benefits

- Elevate staff knowledge on international law, human rights, and the ICC's mandate.
- Improve the capacity of advocacy and human rights teams to engage with international justice mechanisms.
- Better understand legal and political risks in post-conflict or volatile environments.
- Ensure organizational practices align with international legal standards and humanitarian principles.
- Position the organization as a leader in promoting accountability and the rule of law.

Target Audience

- Legal professionals and law students specializing in international law or human rights.

- Government and foreign service officials from ministries of foreign affairs and justice.
- NGO and civil society practitioners working in human rights, conflict resolution, and humanitarian aid.
- Academics and researchers in political science, international relations, and law.
- Journalists and media professionals covering international conflicts and legal affairs.
- Military and security personnel involved in peacekeeping or multinational operations.
- Victim advocates and community leaders.
- UN and international organization staff.

Course Outline

Module 1: Foundations of International Justice

- Historical Context: From the Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals to the ad hoc tribunals for Rwanda (ICTR) and the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).
- The Rome Statute: A detailed analysis of the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court.
- Core Crimes: A deep dive into the definitions and elements of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression.
- Jurisdictional Principles: Understanding the concepts of territoriality, nationality, and the role of the UN Security Council.
- **Case Study**: The **Nuremberg Trials** and their enduring legacy on modern international criminal law.

Module 2: The International Criminal Court in Practice

- Structure and Function: The roles of the Office of the Prosecutor, the Chambers, and the Registry.
- Preliminary Examinations and Investigations: How cases are selected and opened.
- Arrest Warrants and Cooperation: The critical role of state cooperation in executing arrest warrants.
- Trial Proceedings: An overview of the phases of a trial, from confirmation of charges to sentencing.
- **Case Study**: The **Omar al-Bashir** case, highlighting the political challenges of arresting a sitting head of state.

Module 3: Politics of State Cooperation and Sovereignty

- The Complementarity Principle: Analyzing the ICC's "court of last resort" role and the complexities of domestic versus international jurisdiction.
- Non-Cooperation and Withdrawal: Exploring the reasons and implications of states withdrawing from the Rome Statute.
- Universal Jurisdiction: The use of national courts to prosecute international crimes.
- Immunities: The contentious issue of head of state immunity and its challenges to the ICC's authority.
- **Case Study**: The **Kenya situation**, examining the political and legal obstacles faced by the Office of the Prosecutor.

Module 4: Geopolitics and the ICC

- The Role of the UN Security Council: The power to refer cases and its political implications.
- Great Power Politics: The influence of non-state parties like the United States, Russia, and China.
- Geographical Bias: A critical discussion on the perceived focus of ICC investigations on Africa.
- Sanctions and Diplomatic Pressure: How states use political tools to influence the Court.
- **Case Study**: The **Darfur situation**, focusing on the role of the UN Security Council and the challenges of enforcement.

Module 5: Victims and Witnesses

- Victims' Participation: The unique rights of victims to participate in proceedings.
- Witness Protection: The crucial and often dangerous work of protecting key witnesses.
- Reparations: The mandate of the Trust Fund for Victims and the challenges of providing meaningful reparations.
- Outreach: How the ICC engages with affected communities to build trust and legitimacy.
- **Case Study**: The **Thomas Lubanga** case, which led to the first-ever reparations order from the ICC.

Module 6: Accountability and Impunity

- The Deterrent Effect: Debating whether the ICC genuinely prevents future atrocities.
- Transitional Justice Mechanisms: The relationship between the ICC and truth commissions, lustration, and institutional reform.
- The Nexus of Peace and Justice: A discussion on whether justice can be an obstacle to peace negotiations.
- Emerging Legal Challenges: Prosecuting sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and the destruction of cultural heritage.
- **Case Study**: The **Bosnian genocide**, exploring the interplay of international justice and post-conflict reconciliation.

Module 7: The Future of International Justice

- Calls for Reform: Proposed changes to the Rome Statute and the Court's procedures.
- The Role of Civil Society: The indispensable work of NGOs and advocacy groups.
- Technological Advancements: The use of open-source intelligence and digital evidence in investigations.
- Regional Courts: The growing influence of regional human rights courts on international justice.
- **Case Study**: The **Myanmar/Bangladesh** situation, analyzing the complexities of jurisdiction over a non-state party.

Module 8: Practical Skills Workshop

- Simulated Court Session: Participants will engage in a role-play exercise as a prosecutor, defense counsel, or judge in a hypothetical case.
- Evidence Analysis: A hands-on session on evaluating evidence from open sources and human rights reports.
- Advocacy Strategy: Developing a campaign to lobby a state for cooperation with the ICC.
- Crisis Simulation: Responding to a breaking news scenario involving an alleged atrocity crime.
- **Case Study**: The **Ukraine situation**, with a focus on a hypothetical investigation of war crimes.

Training Methodology

This course employs a dynamic and interactive methodology to ensure maximum engagement and retention. We combine theoretical lectures with practical application, including:

- **Interactive Lectures and Group Discussions**: Fostering critical thinking and peer-to-peer learning.
- **Case Study Analysis**: In-depth examination of real-world scenarios to bridge theory and practice.
- **Role-Playing and Simulations**: Participants will assume different roles to experience the complexities of ICC proceedings.
- **Expert-led Q&A Sessions**: Direct interaction with experienced practitioners and legal experts.
- **Multimedia Resources**: Incorporating documentaries, short films, and news clips to provide richer context

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Online	$1,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$1,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$4,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000

Ready to enroll or request a customized program? Book online or contact us:

Register Online Now

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