# JOEU474XA0 International Humanitarian Law – 6 ECTS

**Dr. Réka Varga**

What are the causes and sources of conflicts between nations and governments? What is the dynamism of conflicts? Is there any way to evade these conflicts before they would grow beyond the control of the very governments involved? How can nations prevent or settle these conflicts themselves? What are the rules for conflicts? What are the mechanisms of enforcing rules in conflicts? How does the international criminal justice system work? What are the characteristics of ethnic conflicts and special ways of dealing with them? When and how should conflicting powers involve a third party for the settlement? The course is searching answers for these questions and introducing the main sort of conflicts, the most important applicable rules and ways of their enforcement, most typical ways of settlement, with special emphasis on Central-Eastern Europe.

***Course contents:***

1. Causes of inter-state conflicts. Development of conflicts. Obligations of states to prevent conflicts and peaceful settlement of dispute
2. Changes in the world power dynamics after the end of the Cold War. Effects on inter-state conflicts; new kinds of conflicts, new kinds of challenges.
3. International rules to be observed during international conflicts
4. International rules to be observed during internal conflicts
5. Mechanisms and tools in the hands of states to prevent, manage, minimize or solve conflicts. Multilateral efforts in preventing and managing conflicts. Crisis diplomacy, decision making, negotiations theory. When a third party is involved: mediation
6. The role of military alliances in preventing and managing conflicts
7. International criminal justice system: international courts and tribunals and their role in conflict resolution
8. Ethnic conflicts; ethnic cleansing, genocide. Early warning mechanisms and ways for post-conflict resolution
9. A case study of a new kind of conflict: the “war on terror”
10. A case study: the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Efforts on settling the conflict by the parties and by third states
11. An analysis of some major conflicts in the post-Soviet era: Chechnya, Georgia/Abkhazia and South-Ossetia
12. The Balkan war: events leading up to the war, efforts of states to find a resolution to the conflict
13. Typical post-conflict issues in the aftermath of the Balkan-war: missing persons, criminal justice, multi-ethnic states
14. The Kosovo-case: history of the conflict, ways to resolution. Approaches of states towards the unilateral declaration of independence by Kosovo.

***Methodology:***

The course will introduce to students the main conflict resolution techniques through case studies. Reading material, as well as course discussions will introduce to students the historical background of conflicts and conflict resolution. Course discussions will teach students how to apply conflict resolution techniques in practice.