



UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE

INSTITUTE FOR  
INTERNATIONAL PEACE  
AND SECURITY LAW



## **International Peace and Security Law**

International Peace and Security Law in a stricter sense (*ius contra bellum*) focuses on the prohibition of the use of military force in international relations and the main exceptions to this prohibition. These are the inherent right of self-defense and conditions for the use of force under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter as a measure to maintain international peace and security.

The lecture begins by offering students insights into the 'just war' doctrine, as well as an introduction to the relevant law in the nineteenth century and the legal regime of the League of Nations.

Then, the law applicable today is explained starting with the unilateral use of force and ending with measures, including armed force, pursuant to Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

Here, the main questions that arise are in regard to interpreting articles 2 IV, 51 and 39ff of the UN Charter. Afterwards, specific problems are examined in detail using the following case studies: the Nicaragua conflict in the 1980s, the Gulf wars of the allied troops against Iraq, and NATO's military interventions in the former Yugoslavia and Afghanistan. The lecture aims to reflect the modern state practice and its impact on international law.