

# CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF ARMED CONFLICTS

ONLINE | AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

## DESCRIPTION

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The course will examine the definitions of international and non-international armed conflict under International Humanitarian Law, alongside the concepts of internationalized armed conflict, occupation, and transnational armed conflict.

Each session will consist of a discussion of a case study based on past and contemporary armed conflicts that best illustrate the related challenges (Ukraine, Gaza, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Syria, etc.). Participants will be invited to consider the potential impacts of the legal characterizations applied to situations of armed violence, both on those involved (States, armed groups, humanitarian organizations, etc.) and on those who suffer the consequences (civilians, people deprived of their liberty, etc.). Preliminary readings are compulsory before each session. Rather than lectures, the course takes the form of case study-based discussions, making preparation essential. Readings will be provided in due course.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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- Classify any situation of violence;
- Determine the applicable law arising from that classification;
- Explain the consequences of that classification for those affected by armed conflicts;
- Discuss the advisability of revising the current typology of IHL; and
- Discuss the main issues relating to the classification and de-classification of armed conflicts.



## LECTURER

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**Julia Grignon** is a Fellow Professor at Paris-Panthéon-Assas, where she is the head of International Law Clinic. She is the former Scientific Director of IRSEM (Institute for Strategic Research, 2022-2025) and Professor at the Faculty of Law at Laval University (2012-2025).

Specialized in IHL, she has published numerous journal articles and book chapters as well as shorter formats. She is the author of the book *L'applicabilité temporelle du droit international humanitaire* and edited a special issue of the *Revue québécoise de droit international* on *The law applicable to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine*. She is also a coauthor of the *Online Casebook* and edited the book *Tribute to Jean Pictet*.

At Laval University, she held an individual research project about *The extraterritorial application of International Human Rights Law in context of external military operations* and a partnership development *Osons le DIH! Promotion and strengthening of IHL: a Canadian contribution*, both founded by the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. She was also a co-researcher within the Canadian partnership for International Justice and a co-founder of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Research on Africa and the Middle East. She currently chairs the IHL and Humanitarian Action sub-committee of the CNCDH (French National Consultative Committee on Human Rights).

## AGENDA OF THE ONLINE SESSIONS

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- Monday 31 August, 12:00 to 13:00 - *Introduction*
- Tuesday 1 September, 12:00 to 14:00
- Wednesday 2 September, 12:00 to 14:00
- Thursday 3 September, 12:00 to 14:00
- Friday 4 September, 12:00 to 14:00
- Monday 7 September, 12:00 to 14:00
- Tuesday 8 September, 12:00 to 14:00
- Wednesday 9 September, 12:00 to 14:00

## HOW TO APPLY

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Please send an email to [digital.academy@geneva-academy.ch](mailto:digital.academy@geneva-academy.ch) with a CV and a motivation letter expressing your interest in the specific course.

Selected applicants will receive a confirmation of acceptance. To secure their place, accepted participants are required to pay a non-refundable deposit of **CHF 100**.

Please note that this course is subject to a minimum of 10 participants. If this minimum is not reached two weeks prior to the start date, this course will not be delivered and all registered participants will receive a full refund of the deposit. Places are limited to 25 participants, and therefore early application is strongly encouraged.

## TUITION FEE

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CHF 950.

A discount of CHF 100 is available for students, alumni of the Academy, UNIGE, IHEID, and individuals who have previously participated in our trainings or educational activities.

**MORE INFORMATION  
ON OUR WEBSITE**

