



University of Vienna  
School of Law

Winter Semester 2016/2017

**Course Title: The Law of Treaties**

**Professor: Karl Zemanek**

**Purpose and summary of the course**

The purpose of the course is to refine students' ability to identify and solve problems of treaty law. Since not all aspects of the law of treaties can be taught during the available time in class, this ability should enable students to deal with untreated problems that may arise in the course of their future professional work.

The course will be taught in an interactive manner, combining lectures and discussions. Compliance with the reading assignment **before** the respective lecture and active participation in its discussion in class are therefore indispensable for achieving the purpose of the course.

**Course Programme** (12 units of 2 academic hours each):

- 1. Introduction to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969**
- 2. Introduction to the fundamental concepts used in the course**
- 3. The object and purpose of a treaty** [VCLT Articles 18, 19, 31(1)]
- 4. Interpretation: The CANON of the VCLT** [Articles 31-33].

**5. Interpretation practice: How to elucidate the "ordinary meaning" of terms and how to use "object and purpose" in interpretation.**

*A. 'Ordinary Meaning'*

*B. 'Object and purpose'*

**6 Interpretation beyond the Vienna Convention: evolutionary interpretation and interpretation maxims**

*A. Evolutionary Interpretation*

*B. Maxims not in the VCLT*

**8. The Conduct of States after the Conclusion of a Treaty**

**9. Invalidity and Termination of treaties**

**10. Treaties and the law of state responsibility**

**11. The Vienna Convention on Succession of States in Respect of Treaties of 1978**

**12. The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties Between States and International Organizations or Between International Organizations of 1986**