

Timeline Entries in the '130 Years of Foreign & International Law Instruction in the Yale Law School Bulletin' Exhibit
Lillian Goldman Law Library | Yale Law School | Fall 2024

1869 — The first evidence of foreign law instruction, a course in Civil Law, taught by James Hadley

1873 — Simeon E. Baldwin begins teaching Roman Law, a course which will be a mainstay at the law school through 1926

1876 — Theodore S. Woolsey takes over International Law course from his father, Theodore D. Woosley, which he would teach until 1910

1877 — Admiralty Law is offered as a requirement in the first year of the graduate program

1901 — Between the Spanish-American War and World War One, courses in American Diplomatic History are taught by Edward G. Bourne and Theodore S. Woolsey

1903 — Courses teaching and examining the French Codes, German Imperial Code, and Spanish Codes, the latter with particular focus on the United States' recent imperial acquisitions

1904 – Private International Law is offered as a separate course, taught by Simeon E. Baldwin, an early example of the discrete importance of private international law

1912 — Though International Law ceases to be a required course for the LL.B. program, the graduate program, framed as 'an opportunity to investigate the philosophic principles of human law in a more comprehensive manner', remains the forum for courses on international law, admiralty, Roman law, comparative law, German, French, and Spanish law (including its heirs in Latin America), and canon law

1917 — Edwin Montefiore Borchard, who had been the Law Librarian at the Library of Congress, begins teaching International Law, which he would teach until 1949

1925 — The first course on International Trade is taught by Robert Maynard Hutchins

1930s — Conflict of Laws and Maritime Law, both taught by Ernst G. Lorenzen, predominate the international law curriculum

1948 — Raphael Lemkin, known as ‘the man who outlawed genocide’, offers the first course on the United Nations

1948 — World Community and Law is first taught by Myres McDougal and Harold Lasswell. By 1957, the course evolved into International Organization and World Public Order and was taught through 1970

1952 — Gerhard Bebr, who had taught a course on the United Nations, teaches a course on the European Coal and Steel Community, a predecessor to the European Union

1952 — John Newbold Hazard begins teaching on Law in the Soviet Union and Shihfang Francis Liu on Chinese Comparative Law, the earliest forms of various courses on these subjects that were taught through the 1990s

1952 — Legal Problems in Security Arrangements and Warfare is taught by Harold Dwight Lasswell, Myres Smith McDougal, and Jan Paul Charnatz

1964 — The International Protection of Human Rights taught by Egon Schwelb is the first time a stand-alone course dedicated to the international human rights framework is offered

1971 — After Lasswell's retirement, W. Michael Reisman joins McDougal to teach Public Order of the World Community, which is taught until 2021

1970s — Courses on European Legal Systems, taught by Mirjan Damaška, and African Legal Systems, taught by Richard Abel, are offered

1976 — W. Michael Reisman teaches International Business Transactions, which Harold Koh would later teach in the late 1980s

1987 — International Arbitration is taught by W. Michael Reisman, as arbitration increases as a function of world trade

1987 — Following the introduction of international legal research into the general legal research course the year earlier, Morris L. Cohen co-teaches with W. Michael Reisman and Andrew R. Willard a specialized course, Research Methods in International Law, the first time a course dedicated to international research is offered

1990 — Harold Koh and Michael Ratner establish the Lowenstein Human Rights Law Clinic