

UNIVERSITY of  
**HOUSTON**

LAW CENTER

**INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND ATROCITIES**  
**COURSE EVALUATION – SUMMARY**

Fall 2019

Course Number: Law 7397

Professor: Zachary D. Kaufman, J.D., Ph.D.

All but one student in the course anonymously provided evaluations. Below are ratings and illustrative quotations from these evaluations.

Course Evaluation: This rating combined prompts about how much the student learned relative to other law courses, whether the course will make the student a better lawyer, whether the student would recommend the course to other students, the amount of reading and preparation the course required, and the difficulty of the course's subject matter. The students' average rating of the overall quality of this course—on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 meaning "Outstanding"—was a 4.91.

Instructor Evaluation: This rating combined prompts about whether the instructor was well prepared, demonstrated respect for all students, effectively communicated information, and was available for individual assistance. The students' average rating of the overall teaching effectiveness of this instructor—on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 meaning "Outstanding"—was also a 4.91.

Illustrative quotations: The following are quotations (including capitalizations) from the descriptive portion of the evaluations:

- "This has been by far my favorite course I have taken at UH law. Professor Kaufman is without a doubt the best instructor I have had so far. He is incredibly knowledgeable about the topic, but also has a strong background in the practical real world side of this area of law. I found this course to be the one that has had the greatest impact on my world view, and has made me want to get involved in this field. I would definitely recommend both this course and Professor Kaufman to anyone, and I plan to take more of his courses in the future."
- "AMAZING, AMAZING, AMAZING PROFESSOR!"
- "Professor Kaufman has been one of the best professors that I have ever had. His expertise in the topic and his concern for the well-being and success of his students is unparalleled. This class was elucidating on important international law topics, and the assigned readings and class discussions were well-rounded and thought provoking. Professor Kaufman was also extremely responsive to student feedback. He made sure to bring in timely topics into the course, as well as instructing us on foundational material important to understanding international justice. I would recommend this course to any student interested in public international law."
- "This class and this professor were just . . . outstanding in every way. I would highly recommend the class to anyone who may be remotely interested in international law and justice. Even if you aren't, you live in a global society—so everything learned here is just so highly relevant."
- "Dr. Kaufman is one of those professors that you will always remember when you think back to your law school days. I signed up for this course just looking for a writing credit to satisfy the graduation requirements. I cringed at the title of this course, but I took a chance. This class gave me so much more than I bargained for. You really need the right kind of person to teach this material—because it's HARD. It gets inside of you . . . and it's emotionally draining to hear some of the incidents. Dr. Kaufman is the right kind of mix of knowledgeable / appropriately humorous / stoic / and human. I have never had a professor with the credentials and pedigree Dr. Kaufman has—even as a Rice undergrad. Ever. I've never had a

professor who lived his class—who has been there on the ground . . . who is active in the ongoing discourse on the subject NOW and was a relevant voice TODAY. I don't think people realize the impact of professor quality and pedigree—at least I hadn't. Of course, you want someone who shows up and sticks to the syllabus and can decently guide you through your course questions—but this class was just different. I wanted to learn more. I wanted to hear more about what he is doing and what I can do to change this area of law. When CNN calls your professor . . . or MSNBC wants his opinion on something—you know you're sitting at the feet of someone awesome. I'm humbled at the access, and I'm going to be a better lawyer for it. UHLC, please find more Kaufmans.”

- “Professor Kaufman is amazing. He is knowledgeable and has SO MUCH EXPERIENCE in the field of international justice and atrocities. And for someone with such an impressive resume, he's incredibly approachable, humble, kind, and helpful. The UHLC is so incredibly lucky to have a professor of such high caliber who is also so motivated and passionate about teaching students and getting us to think. I feel like I have learned SO MUCH in his class this semester. We're talking a night and day difference between what I knew about atrocities and international justice before taking the class to now. He's exactly the type of professor UH needs.”
- “This is one of the most challenging and rewarding classes I've taken. The only reason I don't recommend it for everyone is because the subject matter is emotionally difficult. Nevertheless Dr. Kaufman handles the material with sensitivity and respect. His passion and dedication to genocide prevention is inspiring and he makes students feel like we have something to contribute, which is amazing considering how easy it is to feel overwhelmed and helpless in the face of widespread atrocity. He is always available for outside help, provides and listens to feedback, and gives constant encouragement to a degree I haven't experienced with any other professors. He is open about sharing his professional experience in this field, which is both humbling and inspiring.”
- “I really enjoyed my experience in this class and it was by far my favorite class this semester. Thank you Professor Kaufman!”
- “Professor Kaufman's passion and extensive knowledge for the subject matter made this class so great. He manages to strike the balance between being extremely knowledgeable and intelligent and genuinely likable and approachable as a professor.”
- “Thank you Dr. Kaufman for challenging me, for opening my eyes to new understandings of our world, and for trying to make me a better law student (and ultimately a productive member of society as a future lawyer).”