**Literature review plan**  
Plan out your research with this helpful literature review plan, apply these strategies to your own work by filling out your answers to the questions below.

**Themes**  
What central themes have you identified in the field of research?

* The rights and responsibilities of parties in international investment derive from treaties, investment contracts and investment legislations.
* Better investment protection may not stimulate more investment (why do states still sign them if it strips them off sovereign rights?).
* Balancing host state powers and protecting international investments is difficult.
* Independent tribunals charged with pronouncing on contractual rights and obligations do not follow the same set of rules. (Scholars argue that tribunals fuel uncertainty in arbitral awards).

**Debates and disagreements**What are the main debates and disagreements in the research?

* Investors and sovereign states are equal partners in investment contracts vs. Investors must consider that states are sovereign with powers that may enable them derogate from contractual terms.
* Tribunals fuel uncertainties in the field of international investment law vs. Treaties, and non-uniform laws and contexts fuel uncertainties more than tribunals.

**Research chronology**Show how the research field has development over time.

* Under customary international law which applied to international investments, investors can invoke protections against host state activities.
* Customary international law favors capital exporting/developed countries’ investors at the expense of developing/capital importing countries.
* Expropriation of international investments led to calls for better investment protection/ Emergence of bilateral investment treaties and investment contracts.
* To protect their sovereignty, capital importing states starts renegotiating/ abandoning investment treaties.

**Key researchers**Who are the key researchers in the field? What was their contribution?

* SW Schill - Accountability and legitimacy in the field can be increased by conceptualising international investment law as a public law discipline that differs from both public international law and commercial arbitration.
* Rudolf Dolzer, Christoph Schreuer - traces the purpose, context, and evolution of the clauses and provisions characteristic of contemporary investment treaties, and analyses the case law, interpreting the issues raised by standard clauses.
* F.V. Garcia-Amado – failure to perform contractual obligations would trigger state responsibility under international law if it involves an act in contravention of international law, not otherwise.

**Gaps in the research**What gaps or weakness are there in the research field?

* How can the right balance be achieved between investment protection and host state sovereignty?
* To what extent can host states derogate from investment contracts in the pursuit of public policy?
* Does the level of host state development matter in the consideration of standards of treatment under treaty law?