An Introduction to Global Law

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I semester, academic year 2023/2024

Schedule:
9 November 2023, 17:00-19:00
10 November 2023, 11:00-13:00
23 November 2023, 17:00-19:00
24 November 2023, 11:00-13:00
30 November 2023, 17:00-19:00
1 December 2023, 11:00-13:00
14 December 2023, 17:00-19:00
15 December 2023, 11:00-13:00
2 days of paper discussion, February 2024

Description
The course aims at introducing students to the multifaceted notion of global law, focusing on its private and public manifestations.

Students are required to attend the lessons, to read the suggested materials and to participate in the class discussion, as well as to produce a final essay on a topic to be agreed with the three instructors. There are mandatory readings for classes 1-3 and 6-7. Each student is required to select (at least) one theme from classes 4-5 and 8 and to prepare, on the basis of the suggested reading, a short lecture (15 minutes max) presenting the style, contents and effects of global law in the sector concerned.

Assessment: students will be required to prepare a paper that will be discussed at the end of the course, in February 2024. Students will be assessed on the basis of their in-class participation (40%) and of their final essay (60%).
Class 1: Law and Its Globalization – 9 November 2023
The class will provide a general introduction to the course and to the notion and limits of global law. **Mandatory readings:**

Class 2: The Many Shapes and Sizes of Global Law – 10 November 2023
The class will explore more in detail the following issues: who makes global rules? What forms do these rules take? What is their relationship with other legal regimes and orders? **Mandatory readings:**

Class 3: Framing Global Law – 23 November 2023
The class will present and discuss some of the methodological lenses to look at global law, focusing on global administrative law, global legal pluralism, and transnational legal theory. **Mandatory readings:**

Class 4: Controlling Trade and Finance – 24 November 2023
The class will be centered upon students’ presentation and discussion of (what they got from the readings about) the global law of trade and finance. Students who will be assigned the readings will be required to address questions such as: Who makes rules governing global trade and finance? Which forms do these rules and their enforcement take? What is the relationship of these rules with other legal regimes and orders? Whose interests do these rules promote? **Themes and suggested readings for the presentations:**
- **credit rating agencies:** Mauro Bussani, Credit Rating Agencies’ Accountability. Short Notes on a Global Issue, Global Jurist, Vol. 10, No. 1, Advances, 1-16 (updated version).

Class 5: Protecting the Environment – 30 November 2023
The class will be centered upon students’ presentation and discussion of (what they got from the readings about) the global law of food safety and environmental protection. Students who will be assigned the readings will be required to address questions such as: What is the role of global law in these sectors? Which forms does it take? What is its relationship with other legal regimes and orders? Whose interests does it promote? What benefits and what challenges does it raise?
Themes and suggested readings for the presentations:


Class 6: Global Law by Numbers – 1 December 2023

The class will focus on the emergence of quantitative approaches in the governance of global social phenomena and on the global spread of the audit culture, as well as on and its regulatory consequences.

**Mandatory readings:**


Class 7: Regulating Business Law – 14 December 2023

The class will focus on the history of the global regulation of business frameworks by the World Bank’s Doing Business Reports. The class will explore the context underlying the Reports, and on their methodology, structure and regulatory effects.


Class 8: Measuring Democracy, Corruption and Sustainability – 15 December 2023

The class will be centered upon students’ presentation and discussion of (what they got from the readings about) global law by numbers, focussing in particular on global initiatives aiming at measuring the levels of democracy, corruption and sustainability in the world’s countries. Students who will be assigned the readings will be required to address questions such as: What is the role of global law in these sectors? Which forms does it take? What is its relationship with other legal regimes and orders? Whose interests does it promote? What benefits and what challenges does it raise?

**Themes and suggested readings for the presentations:**


- **corruption**: René Urueña, Activism Through Numbers? The Corruption Perception Index and the Use of Indicators by Civil Society Organisations, in Debra Valentina Malito, Gaby Umbach, Nehal Bhuta (eds.), The Palgrave Handbook of Indicators in Global Governance (Palgrave, 2018), 371-388.


Lessons 9 and 10 – Discussion of the papers – TBD