An Introduction to Global Law

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I semester, academic year 2022/2023

Schedule:
11 November 2022, 11:00-13:00
18 November 2022, 11:00-13:00
25 November 2022, 11:00-13:00
1 December 2022, 11:00-13:00
9 December 2022, 11:00-13:00
16 December 2022, 11:00-13:00
2 days of paper discussion, February 2023

Description
The course aims at introducing students to the multifaceted notion of global law, focusing in particular on its private 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 each class. Classes 3, 4 and 6 also have elective readings. Students are required to select at least one elective reading throughout the course and to present its contents to their colleagues (15 minutes max).

Assessment: students will be required to prepare a paper that will be discussed at the end of the course, in February 2023. Students will be assessed on the basis of their in-class participation (50%) and of their final essay (50%).
Lesson 1: Law and Its Globalization – 11 November 2022

The class will provide a general introduction to the course and to the notion (and limits) of global law. The following issues will be explored: what is global law? Who makes global rules? What forms do these rules take? What is their relationship with other legal regimes and orders?

Mandatory readings:

Lesson 2: Framing Global Law – 18 November 2022

The class will present and discuss some of the methodological lenses that might be used to look at global law, focusing in particular on global administrative law, global legal pluralism, and transnational legal theory.

Mandatory readings:

Lesson 3: Controlling Trade and Finance – 25 November 2022

The class will focus on the global law of trade and finance. 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?

Mandatory readings:

Elective readings:
Lesson 4: Protecting the Environment – 1 December 2022

The class will focus on global rules regulating environmental standards and climate change litigation. Who makes these rules? Which form do they take? Whose interests do they promote?

Mandatory readings:

Elective readings:

Lesson 5: Regulating Investment Frameworks – 9 December 2022

The class will focus on the history of the global regulation of investment 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.

Mandatory readings:

Lesson 6: Measuring Democracy and Corruption – 16 December 2022

The class will focus on global initiatives aiming at measuring the levels of democracy and corruption in the world’s countries. The class will analyze the following issues: who makes the law in these sectors, and how? 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?
Mandatory readings:

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

Lessons 7 and 8 – Discussion of the papers – TBD