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International Law Seminar winter term 2020/2021
“Public International Law in a Nutshell: A Podcast Seminar”

Seminar content:

In the current crisis of multilateralism some might think that public international law has lost influence and relevance in world politics. Nevertheless, challenges offer opportunities. Accordingly, we try to connect the core concepts of public international law with current research and recent developments in world politics. This new seminar will challenge students in an academic as well as a creative way. Students will – instead of writing a seminar paper – produce a podcast as a group project. The topics aim at broadening the knowledge of international law through current affairs as well as ongoing academic debates.

After choosing a topic for the podcast, students will design a concept and write a podcast script. Thereby, students will also have to combine the broad topics with current events and research. In a second step students consult with their advisor but primarily with other students and critique each other's podcast scripts. Each student will individually write a critique of at least two other scripts. Subsequently, students will produce the podcast, which will be 10-15 minutes long. This includes the technical arrangements as well as finding an interview partner from academia or practice and recording the podcast as well as subsequent post-production. Students will present the outcome in a final session, which will be guided by listening to the podcasts and discussions.

Throughout the seminar, the student's advisors will provide them with information and advice regarding software and hardware needed. The aim is to produce podcasts that will be able to supplement Public International Law lectures for future students of International Relations at the Centre for International Studies on the one hand and are of interest for a broader public on the other hand.

Seminar procedure:

Preliminary meeting (2 hours): Introduction to the seminar/seminar procedure, allocation of topics, formation of groups depending on the number of students attending.

Introductory session (1,5 hours): Introducing Guidelines on how to create a successful podcast; Introduction to podcast-related technology; Introduction to designing a podcast concept and a script

Working phases student groups:

1. podcast planning and scripting
2. consultation phase (with advisors and among each other)
3. production phase

Final presentations (22nd-24th January 2021)

Examination:

1. Podcast script (25%)
2. Final presentation (25%)
3. Produced Podcast (50%)

Seminar topics:

1. Theories of International Law
2. International Law's Nexus to International Relations
3. A very short History of International Law
4. Sources of International Law
5. Subjects of International Law (States, International Organizations)
6. Relation between International and National Law
7. Jurisdiction & Immunities
8. Diplomacy
9. State Responsibility
10. Peaceful Settlement of Disputes
11. The Use of Force
12. Cyber War
13. Human Rights Law
14. Humanitarian Law
15. International Criminal Law
16. World Trade and Investment Law
17. The Law of the Seas
18. Environmental Law

19. Disarmament and Arms Limitation Law

20. Space Law

21. Third World Approaches to International Law

Information:

The Seminar will be held in English.

There will be a preliminary meeting in the first week of lectures; the date will be announced at the beginning of October.

Before this date there will be no possibility to register!