

Seminar / Séminaire

Law of International Organizations/Droit des Organisations Internationales

Language	English (primary course language) French (at student's option for seminar research paper)
ECTS-Credits	5
Class Meetings (Bern)	Feb 22, Mar 1, Mar 8, Apr 12, 2019 (proposed dates)
One-day Practicum (Geneva)	Visit to International organizations, date to be announced (optional)
Research Workshop (Bern)	May 3, 2019

CORE ISSUES AND QUESTIONS: Changing patterns of geopolitical power, socioeconomic re-structuring, and the ascendancy of populist nationalism present new challenges for the law of international organizations designed to serve the common good. These developments raise questions whether the law of international organizations is still suitable to guide efforts toward international peace and security, sustainable development, human and labour rights, and stable economic relations. Does the law of international organizations effectively govern international organizations' relations with each other and with States and non-state actors? Does it provide sufficient safeguards for the use of law-making and other powers? Does it ensure the necessary legal responsibility of international organizations in situations where their actions or omissions affect human well-being or cause harm?

THE METHOD: In this seminar we explore the meaning in today's context of the legal attributes, powers, and internal legal order of international organizations, and their relationship to national, transnational and other legal orders, and to non-state actors. We analyse the role and impact of the United Nations system and other international institutions in such areas as human rights and development, security and the use of force, and labour and economic relations.

Each participant will research and present an analysis of the law of international organizations as it applies to a selected contemporary challenge, with ideas for improving its effectiveness in changing global contexts. Before final submission, there is a one to 1.5 day Research Workshop for students to present their research findings for peer review.

QUALIFICATIONS: The seminar is open to Major and Minor law students at the Bachelor or Master level, Master students from other faculties studying law as a minor as well as doctoral and Master students and particularly interested bachelor students in relevant fields. The primary course language is English; French is used at the student's option for the written seminar paper.

Some background in international law or international affairs is recommended.

This seminar is open for registration from 15/01/2019 to 14/02/2019. Please send your registration with name, first name, address, e-mail, phone number, registration number (Matrikelnummer), present field of study (e.g. law) and level (e.g. master), number of semesters studied, and any relevant background in international law or affairs **not later than 14/02/2019** to: kelly.bishop@oefre.unibe.ch.