

International Law (IL)

Academic year 2018 - 2019

A discourse analysis of international law

DI115- Spring- 6 ECTS
Tuesdays 10:15-12:00 (S7)

Course Description

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the fundamentals of discourse analysis in order to equip them with the toolbox necessary to conduct a discourse-based analysis of international law. Analyzing international legal discourse as a system of significations, we will discuss - among other things - its ordering principles, its socially shaping and constitutive function, its role in the formation of identities, subjects and subject-positions and its strategic functions in times of crises. No prior background in, or knowledge of, discourse analysis is required.

> PROFESSOR

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Syllabus

ASSESSMENT

Assessment for this research seminar will be based on an individual research paper (75 %) and the performance of each student as discussant for a research paper presented by another student (25 %). Topics on offer will be distributed prior to the second session. Students should come to the second session prepared to choose a topic for their research paper among those that are on offer or suggest a topic relating to one of the broad themes of the seminar. Before the third session each student should choose a research paper for which they will serve as discussant. More information about the requirements regarding the structure and content of the research papers and the role of discussants will be provided during the introductory session.

While class participation is wholeheartedly encouraged, it is not part of the grading. However, I am enough of an idealist to believe that grades are not the only driving factor for students. By taking the pressure of grading out of the equation, I expect that everyone will feel encouraged to participate in class discussions and contribute to making the seminar a success.

Session 1 Introduction

19 February

Session 2	Theorizing discursive constraints	26 February
Session 3	The socially productive character of international legal discourse I: Saying as doing	5 March
Session 4	The socially productive character of international legal discourse II: Subject positions and the universality effect	12 March
Session 5	The said, the implicit and the silences of international legal discourse	19 March
Session 6	Discourse protocols and their effects in international law	26 March
Session 7	Discourse analysis of international legal scholarship	2 April
Session 8	Discourse analysis of international judicial decisions	9 April
Session 9	International legal discourse in times of crises: Case studies	16 April
Session 10	Presentations	30 April
Session 11	Presentations	7 May
Session 12	Presentations	14 May
Session 13	Presentations	21 May
Session 14	Presentations	28 May