



Lectures conducted in English – Spring Semester 2025

Title of Lecture /Module	ECTS	Lecturer(s)	Content
Artificial Intelligence: Technology and Law	6	Abraham Bernstein, Thouvenin Florent	<p>Machines are increasingly capable of performing tasks considered to require "intelligence" if performed by human beings. Recent developments in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) are fueled by novel data processing technologies, ever growing amounts of data, and increased computing power. AI systems come with great promises and opportunities, but they also raise concerns in many respects and they pose significant challenges to the application of today's legal order. Accordingly, regulators around the globe are currently investigating if and how the law should be adapted to meet these challenges.</p> <p>This course provides participants with an interdisciplinary view on AI by focusing on the capabilities of AI systems and the regulatory as well as technical responses in Switzerland and Europe. In doing so, it also highlights some of the fundamental differences in preventing undesired outcomes in law and computer science and challenges all participants to reflect on practical solutions for the future</p>
Climate Change Law	6	Johannes Reich	<p>Anthropogenic climate change is arguably the most severe challenge facing humanity. The course seeks to situate "Climate Change Law" with its cross-cutting character in both international law and domestic (environmental) law. Students will gain insights into the relation between Climate Change Law and General International Law as well as International Environmental Law and acquire knowledge on the history of the emergence of the international regime to mitigate and adapt to climate change. On the basis of an introduction into the geophysical basis of human-induced climate change, provided by Professor Dr. Reto Knutti, Center for Climate Systems Modeling (C2SM), Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich), the course will enable the students to gain a profound understanding of the complex treaty-based regime of Climate Change Law spanning from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and discuss the implementation thereof both at the domestic level (Switzerland) and in the European Union. Students will get familiar with the potential and challenges of climate change litigation and the role private actors such as corporations and social movements can play in the combat against global warming. Presentations by external experts form an integral part of the lecture.</p>



Comparative Administrative Law	6	Felix Uhlmann	<p>Many countries struggle with the amount of regulation that administrative authorities must implement. Although the subject areas of such regulation are quite di-verse, the implementation is usually guided by some general rules, often unwritten. These rules form what is called "Administrative Law" (or "General Administrative Law").</p> <p>The course looks into these rules from a comparative perspective. Common problems that may arise in the administrative context are illustrated by cases and other materials. Students are asked to comment on these cases and compare them - if possible - to their own legal background.</p> <p>The course is divided in two parts. At the beginning of the semester, students will be introduced to the typical topics of administrative law and discuss cases. In the second part, they will present a case from their home country (or from elsewhere) and discuss it in class (likewise the earlier cases). This will be the exam. Participation in class will be mandatory and be taken into account for the final mark (33 %).</p>
Comparative Civil Procedure	6	Samuel P. Baumgartner/Tanja Domej/Lorenz Droese/Ulrich Haas	<p>In this course we will discuss approaches taken in different jurisdictions towards key problems of civil litigation.</p>
Contemporary History of Law	6	Elisabetta Fiocchi Malaspina	<p>The course will focus the attention on the 16th to the 20th centuries, scrutinizing the «modern» development of State's theories and the international law system; the complex and contradictory relations between violence and law, between war and law, between race and law, between (in)equality of man and law and finally between economy and law. The course will outline and analyse the legal consequence of entanglements, interactions, collisions of law and relate this to the nature and construction of the social order from a historical perspective.</p> <p>Reading of primary sources combined together with a critical reconstruction on law and jurists in their context will be done during the course.</p>



Cross-Border Litigation/Complex Procedure	6	Samuel P. Baumgartner	<p>The module covers either: (1) international aspects of civil litigation in national courts, or (2) complex litigation in national courts involving a multitude of participants, such as bankruptcy proceedings, class or other forms of group actions, or collective redress.</p> <p>The precise content of the course will be announced separately for every semester in which it will be taught.</p> <p>In spring 2024, this will be a course on U.S. class actions, taught by Professor Baumgartner. The purpose of this course is for you to learn some of the basics of U.S. class action law and practice. This should enable you to come to a first, tentative evaluation of what works, what does not, what is special to the United States, and what is perhaps portable to other jurisdictions considering introducing some form of collective redress. The focus is on federal class actions, that is, on Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and the case law interpreting and developing it.</p>
European Civil Procedure	6	Tanja Domej/Felix Dasser	<p>In this course, we will discuss rules for cross-border litigation. A particular focus will be on the Lugano Convention that applies in the relationship between Switzerland, the EU, Iceland, and Norway.</p>
European Economic Law	6	Andreas Heinemann/Peter Georg Picht	<p>The course gives an overview of the principles of European Economic Law. The economic constitution of the European Union and the foundations of the Internal Market are dealt with. The general perspective will be complemented by an analysis of the most important cases of the European Court of Justice. The focus will be on the free movement of goods, services, persons and capital as well as on EU competition law.</p>
European Institutions	6	Matthias Oesch	<p>Selected questions of constitutional/institutional law of the EU and of the bilateral relations between the EU and Switzerland; a special focus lies on the discussion of current developments and challenges (e.g., Brexit, fundamental rights, democratic legitimacy, rule of law, EU external relations law, the EU and the People, Swiss-EU relations and institutional issues).</p>
European Private Law	6	Yesim M. Atamer, Lukas Fahrländer, Roger Rudolph	<p>Although Switzerland is not a Member State of the European Union, European legislation is highly relevant for Swiss courts and jurisprudence, since EU Market Law is also implemented and applied in Switzerland in different contexts.</p> <p>The most important examples stem from the fields of EU Consumer Law, EU Competition Law, EU Business and Financial Market Law.</p> <p>Building on the four market freedoms and the efforts of legislative alignment within the EU Single Market, the course aims at presenting the main precepts of substantive private law created by the European Union and to make students aware of the peculiarities of its application in Member States as well as in Non-Member States such as Switzerland.</p>
History of European Legal Science	6	José Luis Alonso, Ulrike Babusiaux	<p>The foundations of today's private law were largely laid from the twelfth century onwards within the "learned law" tradition, when the young European Universities, like Bologna, began to study the decisions of the ancient Roman jurists and Emperors, as compiled by Justinian in the later called Corpus Iuris Civilis. The legal concepts, structures and methods developed in a scholarly environment by these learned lawyers shaped also the legal practice ("reception") in most of Europe ("ius commune"). Through multiple incarnations and reinventions, this Romanistic tradition managed to survive in one form or another the tectonic shifts that marked the political history of</p>



			Europe up to the modern Era and, starting at the end of the 18th century, provided the basic material for the creation of the national codifications of civil law and for legal dogmatics.
History of International Law	6	Oliver Diggelmann	<p>The course's objective is to deepen the understanding of contemporary international law and international relations. It introduces milestones of the development of international law and sheds light on the genealogy of important rules. In the first part of the course, we will discuss topics such as the historical roots of international law and diplomatic relations, international law and colonization, peace and stability, decolonization, world wars and collective security, and the emerging age of human rights. In the second part, a number of participants will be given the opportunity to hold a presentation on a jointly agreed topic.</p> <p>The slots for presentations are limited.</p> <p>30 students are admitted to the course. The participants can either hold a presentation and submit a seminar paper of 3,500 words (15 slots) or take an oral examination at the end of the semester (15 slots). Attendance in class is mandatory, active participation expected.</p>
International Commercial Arbitration	6	Lorenz Droese/Ulrich Haas et. al.	The module provides students with a level-appropriate overview of the fundamentals and practice of arbitration and thus gives insight into a conflict resolution instrument that is particularly significant for international business life. Lectures by experienced, internationally active experts ensure a high level of practical relevance.
International Criminal Law Link	6	Sarah Summers, Nadine Zurkinden	<p>The first part of the lecture will introduce students to the foundations, goals, and present-day challenges of international criminal law. Students will be acquainted with the crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression. The course will briefly discuss issues of sentencing and enforcement of sentences.</p> <p>The second part of the lecture will be dedicated to the enforcement of ICL.</p> <p>Jurisdiction over international crimes, the evolution of international tribunals, and international criminal procedure will be discussed in the context of the present political environment. Particular attention will be paid to the legal options available to avert impunity in today's ongoing conflict.</p>
International Economic Law	6	Christine Kaufmann	The course addresses different forms of economic cooperation in public international law. It will discuss the multilateral world trade system (WTO), international investment regulations and international monetary law and their interactions with other areas of international law such as environmental and human rights law.
International Financial Law	6	Marco Dell'Erba	This course is designed to examine the role of international financial law and regulation in the operation of financial markets. It also seeks to enhance understanding of the rationale, methods and institutional design of the regulation and supervision of financial markets from an international, European and comparative perspective.
International Human Rights	6	Christine Kaufmann	The course will provide an overview of the current international human rights regime: It will cover the main international and regional human rights instruments and the different monitoring mechanisms. A substantial part of the Course is dedicated to the discussion of cases.



Internet Law	6	Demian Stauber, Stephanie Volz	Students will gain a deeper understanding of various internet-specific legal issues, namely in the area of Internet Governance, Data Protection, E-Commerce, and Copyright Law; the focus will (mostly) be on European law.
Introduction to EU Energy Law	6	Johannes Reich	This module will introduce students to the field of EU Energy Law. It will look at its origins, how the general provisions of the EU's Treaties are relevant and apply in the Energy sector (free movement, competition, environment), and the scope of the EU's competence to act in the field of Energy. Elements of the detailed legislation adopted will also be covered, addressing the development of the internal energy market through the introduction of liberalization and competition, and the opening of national markets to supplies from other EU Member States. Other topics will include environmental areas related to EU energy law (e.g. renewables, carbon capture & storage), legal instruments on the security of energy supplies and related issues. The course aims to give the student a grounding in the sources, development and key issues of EU Energy Law, and to start to think critically about how multiple overlapping legal provisions which can cover the same issues might be made to work coherently together.
Introduction to Insurance Law and Regulation	6	Marta Ostrowska	<p>This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of insurance as a risk management tool and the basic principles governing the creation, sale and enforcement of the most common forms of insurance. The course will present both economic and legal aspects of insurance in order to ensure a thorough understanding of insurance as both social and individual necessity.</p> <p>The legal part of the course will give the students the broadest possible exposure to the issues lawyers confront regularly in this area of practice.</p> <p>The course is recommended to students who want to explore insurance law and regulation in details for their professional purposes but also to students who wish to gain practical skills of understanding and using insurance contracts for their individual purposes.</p> <p>The course gives strong foundation for the topics covered by European / Swiss Law of Insurance Markets, therefore students are recommended to attend the course before choosing European Law of Insurance Markets.</p>
Introduction to Sports Law	6	Ulrich Haas/Jan Elmar Kleiner	The course will primarily cover the following topics: sports organisation and governance, rules and regulations (including financial stability, anti- doping and fight against match-fixing), dispute resolution.
Introduction to U.S. Business Law	6	Andreas Heinemann	The lecture offers an introduction and an overview of the most important business law regulations in the United States. After an introduction to the US-American legal system and the most important "players", individual areas of business law will be dealt with in depth and compared to EU and Swiss rules. It is also planned to involve US lawyers for individual lectures.
Introduction to U.S. Civil Procedure	6	Samuel P. Baumgartner	Introduction to U.S. civil procedure. We will focus particularly on those aspects of U.S. civil procedure that are quite different from continental European civil procedure and, in some cases, different from civil procedure anywhere else in the world.



Law and Technology: A cross-continental perspective	6	Florent Thouvenin	<p>This course will explore the interaction between law and modern technology. It will introduce students to the potentially problematic relationship between legal rules and technological change, and then begin to explore real substantive problems at the interface between them. This will require some understanding of particular legal doctrines and particular technologies, which the course itself will provide. It is the aim of the course to teach, encourage and nurture creative legal (and technological) thinking when contemplating questions such as the possible regulation and/or promotion (for example, through patents) of technology and technological change.</p>
Law, Reproduction and Ethics: Fundamental Debates	6	Alice Margaria	<p>In recent decades, advancements in reproductive medicine have given rise to significant legal and ethical dilemmas. Legal frameworks governing this area have often lagged behind the rapid pace of scientific progress and societal changes. This has led to legal gaps - often filled in by individual autonomy and practices - or to the imposition of ineffective legal prohibitions - often circumvented by crossing national borders in pursuit of (more) permissive legal regulations. This highlights that the law is just one of the multiple sources of normativity influencing the regulation of reproduction. Further reflections on the ethical dimensions of reproductive technologies and practices are thus needed, especially within the legal domain.</p> <p>In light of this context, this course adopts a transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach to critically examine some of the most pressing issues at the intersection of reproduction, law, and ethics. In addition to the legal framework governing reproductive medicine in Switzerland, the course will focus on topics of international relevance, such as trans procreation, egg donation, ectogestation, and gene editing.</p>
Legal Sociology (MLaw)	6	Christoph Beat Graber	<p>This course undertakes an in-depth discussion on the fundamental issues concerning the relationship between law and society, with questions in respect to history, methodology and philosophy of science playing an important part. In doing so, specific questions on the functioning and meaning of law in modern legal systems will be addressed. The significance of legal sociology in the various workings of the law will be elucidated on the basis of practical examples.</p>
Modern Times: Legal History of Modern Europe	6	Johannes Liebrecht	<p>Legal History often deals with remote, albeit very interesting and relevant, issues. However, legal history can also provide a picture of more recent developments which form the basis of our current laws. This course will do exactly that. It will provide students with an account of some of the crucial lines of development within Europe's Legal History of, roughly speaking, the last 200 years. Thus, the course will combine legal history with an assessment of today's legal culture. In contrast to the Master-Vorlesung Rechtsgeschichte der bürgerlichen Moderne (which is delivered in German), this course will not adopt Switzerland as its starting point. Instead, it will trace, and thus follow, the developments of the law in Europe from the French revolution onwards, thereby providing students with a general comparative framework.</p> <p>The course is designed for students who wish to obtain a broad overview of some common, specifically modern, features of the Western legal tradition. It is open to Swiss students (both students at the UZH and those doing a Joint Degree) as well as students from abroad who are spending part of their studies at Zurich University (e.g. Double Degree and Master Programme</p>



			<p>students).</p> <p>Students do not need to fulfill any particular preconditions for attending this course, nor will they be expected to have attended legal history courses before. The only prerequisite is curiosity. This course will be offered in the Spring Semester.</p>
Public Law and Economics	6	Yoan Hermstrüwer	<p>How should the law address the problem of excessive CO2 emissions? Why do voting procedures sometimes fail? When should a task be delegated to the administration or courts? How can the law deter corruption and collusion? And why do states comply with international law? This course will uncover the economic foundations of public law. In doing so, the course will explore a diverse set of topics ranging from bargaining problems, voting mechanisms, the economics of fundamental rights, economic theories of delegation, enforcement and compliance to comparative constitutional law and legal origins.</p> <p>The course will discuss both the conceptual foundations of the economic analysis of law and more recent developments in public law and economics, in particular recent methodological advancements. Drawing on specific examples from national public law and public international law, the course will shed light on how experimental methods, empirical legal studies and data science can inform our understanding of public law.</p>