



Lectures conducted in English – Fall Semester 2025

Title of Lecture /Module	ECTS	Lecturer(s)	Content
Ancient Legal History Link	6	José Luis Alonso	<p>Roman law in its final form, as compiled in Justinian's Corpus Iuris Civilis, builds the foundation of all continental European legal systems, and tends therefore to be studied in isolation, as the only source of our own legal thinking.</p> <p>Unlike this idealized Roman Law of the romanistic tradition, the actual Roman law of History arose and evolved as one among many other Ancient legal traditions, which preceded it by centuries and even millennia. Legal History, thus, was already old when Roman law started its development. The course "Ancient Legal History" aims to explore these "other" legal traditions and their interplay with Roman law. Through examples taken from the Mesopotamic, Egyptian and Greek legal traditions, this course will focus on the actual legal practice of these Ancient cultures, handed down to us through innumerable documents, particularly clay tablets from Mesopotamia and papyri from Greek and Roman Egypt and the Near East.</p> <p>In addition, the course will also look at problems that arose as a result of Roman expansion: In particular, how the Roman jurists, the Roman courts and the Imperial bureaucracy addressed a legal practice that, unlike in Italy, was in the provinces often still dominated by such non-Roman legal traditions.</p>



Children's Right Link	6	Karl Raymond Julienne Hanson	Adopting a critical, reflexive view on how children's rights are theorized, discussed and applied, the course will present and discuss the normative content, implementation and monitoring mechanisms of the international children's rights instruments, in particular the 1989 UN Convention on the Right of the Child. In addition, the course will explore the interaction between the legal, social and political dimensions of the children's rights project through a discussion of themes central to the field, including debates on child labour and education, child soldiering, international child protection, juvenile justice and the politics of children's representation.
Comparative Constitutional Law Link	6	Johannes Reich	<p>This course covers both the methodology and substance of comparative constitutional law. We will explore commonalities and differences amongst various constitutional systems. In particular, we will compare different approaches to key constitutional concepts such as the separation of powers, judicial review, fundamental rights, democracy, and federalism. We will examine how different countries structure the division of power between central and regional governments, the challenges of balancing autonomy and unity, and the implications of federalism for governance, representation, and the protection of minority rights.</p> <p>Maximum number of participants: 22</p>
Comparative Private Law Link	6	José Luis Alonso Ulrike Babusiaux (more)	The course will introduce students to contemporary concepts and methods of comparative law. It will illustrate the functions of comparative law by examples taken from various systems of law as well as sources of uniform law.



Contract Design I Link	6	Alexander Stremitzer	<p>Contract Design I is taught by Professor Stremitzer and aims to bridge the gap between economic contract theory, contract law, and the writing of real-world contracts. In this course, we take a systematic approach to contract design. This means we first analyze the economic environment in which a transaction takes place, and then engineer contracts that achieve the desired outcome.</p> <p>Contracts are agreements between parties to engage in transactions. A good contract creates value by giving parties the right incentives to meet their objectives. A good contract designer scrutinizes the economic situation in which parties find themselves and tailors the contract to the challenges at hand. To help you become sophisticated contract designers, we draw from insights for which more than half a dozen Nobel Prizes were awarded in the past two decades and transfer them to the art of writing real-world contracts. In other words, Contract Design will provide you with analytical tools to design contracts that help you be better lawyers, business leaders, and startup founders.</p> <p>We will cover topics such as moral hazard, adverse selection, elicitation mechanisms, relationship-specific investments, and relational contracting and apply the theoretical insights to real-life case studies ranging from purchases & sales of assets, oil & gas exploration, movie financing, production & distribution, construction & development, M&A deals, venture capital financing, to executive compensation and many other types of transactions.</p>
Criminology Link	6	Dirk Baier	<p>The course aims to introduce students to the basic concepts of criminology and a selection of specific research areas.</p>
Current Issues in International Law Link	6	Christine Kaufmann	<p>This course examines current, generally important issues of international law. Topics will therefore vary from year to year.</p> <p>The topic in fall semester 2025 is Digitalisation and International Law.</p>
European Criminal Law Link	6	Lukas Staffler	<p>The course offers a systematic introduction to the field of European Criminal Law combining European Union Law and Council of Europe Law. The course will cover substantive criminal law (e.g. money laundering, terrorism) as well as criminal procedure (most importantly mutual legal assistance and law enforcement institutions). In the first part, particular attention will be paid to the structures and constitutional foundations of European Criminal Law and its fundamental rights framework. The powers and limits of law- and policy-makers in the European realm will be subjected to critical analysis. The second part of this course continues with an overview of the main substantial and procedural issues in the field of European criminal law before turning to more in-depth explorations of selected up-to-date topics. Among others, innovations in the EU will be studied (EPPO, mutual recognition, e-evidence) and discussed in terms of their compatibility with human rights, traditional tenets of criminal procedure and basic concepts of justice. Finally, the delicate position and options of Non-EU-countries will be addressed.</p>



Fintech, Blockchain & the Future of International Finance Link	6	Marco Dell'Erba	tba
History of Business Law Link	6	Elisabetta Fiocchi Malaspina / Andreas Thier	With a global perspective, the course will focus the attention on the historical entanglements between law and economics, examining the history and rise of business law. Special attention will be given to theories and practices of business law in its historical developments. Further information can be found on the website of the lecturer.
International Organisations Link	6	Pierres-Yves Marro	<p>The course addresses the role of international organizations in public international law. It starts with a general part on the theory and law underlying international organizations. It then discusses the UN, the EU as an example of a supranational organization, regional organizations such as the OSCE and the Council of Europe, further the WTO, and the Bretton Woods Institutions, as well as the role of NGOs.</p> <p>Students will gain expertise in the law of international organizations and an understanding of the role and functions of international organizations.</p>
International Sales Law (CISG) Link	6	Yesim M. Atamer	This course is designed to introduce students to the theoretical and practical problems of international sales law and the legal solutions served by the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG), which entered into force in 1988 and counts today more than ninety contracting states. The course focuses mainly on the scope of application of the CISG, the hierarchy between the CISG and national sales law provisions, formation of the contract under the CISG, obligations of the parties and remedies in case of non- performance, and the liability regime of the CISG. The course aims also to use the CISG as a base to discuss differing approaches in Civil Law and Common Law jurisdictions, thereby facilitating students with international background to scrutinize their own national sales law system.



International Trade Regulation Link	6	Charlotte Sieber-Gasser	<p>This course deals with the three central developments in the field of international trade regulation since the end of the Second World War, namely multilateralism, preferentialism and (coordinated) autonomy. The course begins with outlining the quasi-constitutional basis of international trade regulation to be found in the law and policy of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Topics include the principles of non-discrimination and transparency, the pursuance of legitimate policy objectives other than trade liberalisation (such as the protection of the environment and human and animal life and health), non-tariff measures (such as rules on technical regulations and subsidies), and current developments (such as economic coercion, the dissolution of the WTO Appellate Body, trade sanctions in reaction to international aggression, and the (potential) trade war between the US, China and the rest of the world). Special attention is given to the case law of WTO panels and Appellate Body. The course then proceeds to discuss the law and policy of free trade agreements. Of particular interest are examples of regulatory innovation in selected free agreements which the US, the EU and Switzerland have concluded with partners all over the globe. Moreover, the relevance of "mega regionals" and plurilateral initiatives, such as EU-MERCOSUR, RCEP, CETA, or the Joint Statement Initiative on E-Commerce is discussed. The course concludes with a view on the newest regulatory development in international trade regulation: (coordinated) autonomy in the form of unilateral trade measures which link market access with trade-related interests (such as climate change, forced labour, or deforestation). The focus lies on the different variations of (coordinated) autonomy as evidenced in recent US, EU and Swiss trade policy decisions.</p>
Introduction to Programming and Computational Thinking for Lawyers Link	3	Tilman Altwicker	<p>This course is an introduction to programming especially designed for law students. It provides a basic understanding of programming as a creative approach to problem-solving. Students will learn fundamental concepts and skills of programming that are relevant in legal contexts. The course introduces the Python programming language. Coding projects and examples will be drawn from legal contexts.</p> <p>Maximum number of participants: 30</p>



Introduction to Swiss Law Link	6	Tina Huber-Purtschert / Marc Thommen (Weitere)	<p>The course offers an introduction into the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Swiss Constitutional Law2. Swiss Administrative Law3. Swiss Tax Law4. Swiss Private Law5. Swiss Contract/Company Law6. Swiss Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure7. Swiss Civil Procedure8. Roman Law9. Legal History10. Legal Sociology11. Legal Philosophy <p>The lecture provides an introduction to the philosophical foundations of law. In particular, it will be asked: What is the relation of justice and law? Examples will be drawn from Swiss law and from for Switzerland relevant European and International law.</p>
Law and Economics Link	6	Alessia Dedual Yoan / Hermstrüwer (Weitere)	<p>Introduction to the foundations of the economic analysis of criminal law, property, tort, contract, corporate, competition and intellectual property law.</p>
Law and Technology: A cross continental perspective Link	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>
Legal Theory Link	6	Matthias Mahlmann	<p>The module offers an outline of key issues of a theoretical reflection of law and justice. It will discuss some historical examples of the evolving theoretical reflection of law and its ethical foundations. In addition, central analytical and normative problems will be considered concerning the structure and content of law and its relation to ethical thought. A special focus of attention will be contemporary cognitive science and its impact on the understanding and conceptualisation of law, including the structure and origin of moral cognition and the problem of free will. The course will offer a critical assessment of these approaches that form one of the most important issues in the contemporary reflection about law. Serious thought on these matters, it will be argued, leads to central problems of our human self- understanding that are of foundational importance for our concept of law. The theoretical reflection and its results will be exemplified by concrete cases including target killings, torture and other issues of civil, criminal, public law and the adjudication of human rights.</p>



Negotiation and Conflict Management Link	6	Felix Addor	<p>Being an effective negotiator is a critical skill in any profession. Negotiation and conflictmanagement skills are important in all life situations. For example, in order to get a job contract, assessment exercises usually require candidates to participate in a groupnegotiation exercise as one of the tasks. The negotiation process is a comprehensivestrategy for resolving conflicts of interest in a sustainable way. It is based on skills thatare not innate, but can be acquired and improved through intensive and practical study.</p> <p>This course is designed for those who would like to learn and reflect on how to resolve conflicts of interest in an integrative manner; who are interested in applying what they have learned in exercises in class and in daily practice; and who are willing to actively participate in all modules of the course. It can change participants' perspectives on how negotiations should be planned, structured and conducted to be successful.</p>
Principles of Corporate Law Link	6	Kern Alexander / David Bertrand Roth	<p>In the course Principles of Corporate Law we will discuss and analyse the fundamental theories of the company, the role of the board of directors, the role of shareholders, the minority shareholder rights, investor protection, the EU Company Law, Corporate Governance, insider dealing and market abuse, etc. All the issues are dealt with using an international and comparative perspective. Please consult the website of the chair of Prof. Alexander to get a comprehensive overview.</p>
Recent Case Law of International Courts Link	6	Daniel Moeckli	<p>Cases before international courts and tribunals raise fascinating, often highly political issues and shape the future development of international law. In this course we will critically analyse some of the most important judgments issued in recent years by the International Court of Justice as well as other international and regional courts and tribunals, such as the European Court of Human Rights. The course will be based on a reader of recent international case law. Each lesson will be devoted to the thorough analysis of one or two cases decided by an international court or tribunal.</p> <p>Maximum number of participants: 22</p>
Responsible Business Conduct Link	6	Christine Kaufmann / Ron Popper	<p>The course will focus on the existing and emerging rules on corporate responsibility. After an introduction covering the basic instruments in the field of responsible business conduct, including the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines on MNEs, we will discuss the intersection of business with all aspects of society, with a more detailed look on environmental impacts and sector-specific risks.</p>



Transnational Organised Crime - The UN Perspective Link	3	Andreas Schloenhardt	<p>Contemporary Crime and Criminal Justice are increasingly characterised by the globalisation of criminal activities and international efforts to combat transnational crime. This course explores the international legal framework and best practice guidelines to prevent and suppress transnational organised crime, including drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, and the smuggling of migrants. The course outlines and examines the criminalisation of these activities and analyses national and international efforts to investigate such crime and prosecute offenders.</p> <p>The course is designed to give students a comprehensive understanding of contemporary patterns and characteristics of transnational organised crime and relevant international conventions in this field. The seminars, individual and team-based exercises, and assessment in this course invite students to gain insight into the levels and characteristics of various types of organized crime and critically reflect on international, regional, and domestic laws and policies designed to combat these phenomena. The course enhances students' abilities to engage with and research policy documents and legal material, critically analyse legislation, case studies and scholarly writing, present research findings to academic audiences, and elaborate practical recommendations for law reform and policy change relevant to the subject area.</p> <p>Maximum number of participants: 24</p>
Workshop and Lecture Series on the Law and Economics of Innovation Link	6	Stefan Bechtold / Andreas Heinemann (Weitere)	<p>The Workshop & Lecture Series is a joint project of ETH Zurich and the Universities of St. Gallen and Zurich. The series provides an overview of current interdisciplinary research on innovation, intellectual property, antitrust, privacy and technology policy. Scholars from law, economics, management, computer science, psychology and related fields give a lecture and/or present their current research. All speakers are internationally well-known experts from Europe, the U.S., and beyond.</p>