S Y L L A B U S

Compliance with International Law: Theories and Empirics (24-106.23)

Time: Thursday, 4:15 – 5:45 p.m.
Location: Allendeplatz 1, Room 245

The increasing legalization of regulatory regimes beyond the state in almost all issue areas raises the central question of the extent to which legal rules and obligations are actually complied with in practice, and why (or why not). This seminar investigates the major theories on compliance with international law as well as some principal applications in specific issue areas. Among the questions asked are: What do we mean by compliance and how do we assess it? What legal, political and/or social forces explain the if-and-how of compliance? May different logics be at work in different issue areas? And how can compliance problems best be remedied?

Readings

The readings for this course will be made available as pdf-files on the STiNE course website.

Requirements

To receive 4 ECTS credit points (ungraded), in addition to regular attendance, each student, as part of a group of two to three, will have to prepare a handout (1-2 pages per reading) that summarizes the key arguments of the texts assigned for a particular week. In addition, the student group will also start the class with a 15-20 minute presentation on the readings for that week. These presentations should not be merely summaries of the readings (that is the purpose of the handouts), but rather provide a critical evaluation of the theories and data discussed in them that yields stimulating questions for discussion.

To receive an additional 4 credit points, for a total of eight, students must submit an individually written seminar paper of 12-15 pages on a topic of their choice that relates to a theoretical and/or empirical question concerning compliance with international law. Papers are due electronically by ____________, at the latest. Please make sure to observe academic citation rules, as failure to do so may result in a lower grade or even failure to pass the course.
Week 1  (April 3)    Introduction
≡ A primer on international law

Week 2  (April 10)    Theory I: Rational Choice

Week 3  (April 17)    Theory II: Domestic Politics
≡ Beth Simmons, *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics* (CUP, 2009), chap. 4

Week 4  (April 24)    Theory III: Constructivism

Week 5  (May 8)    Theory IV: Legitimacy, Legality & Legal Process

Week 6  (May 15)    Theory V: Managerialism

Week 7  (May 22)    Theory VI: Further Approaches
Compliance with International Law (SS 2014)

Week 8 (June 5) Empirics I: The Constraining Effect of Treaties


Week 9 (June 19) Empirics II: International Human Rights I


Week 10 (June 26) Empirics III: International Human Rights II


Week 11 (July 3) Empirics IV: Territorial Claims & IMF


Week 12 (July 10) Empirics V: European Union Law
