

TRADE LIBERALIZATION AND LABOUR RIGHTS

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ECTS: 6, Year II, Stream B, II Semester

I. Subject matter and programme of the course

This course aims at providing students with the legal tools to deal with the ongoing balance between the so called labour rights and the trend towards the phenomenon of trade liberalization.

The course, which follows an international perspective, will focus on the main levels, actors, sources and tools involved in this field.

II. Topics

The course is divided into three parts.

The first part of the course, after dealing with the two complex concepts of “trade liberalization” and “labour rights”, will be focused on the levels (national, supranational, international, transnational), the actors (States, governmental and non-governmental Organizations, Courts), the sources (hard law *versus* soft law) involved in this field and their interaction.

The second part of the course will be dedicated to the study of the most widespread tools used in order to create a balance between the needs of the trade and the ones of the employees.

Finally, some lectures will be dedicated to the analysis of the most important leading cases, changing from year to year.

III. Objectives

Course goals:

- understanding the complex concept of “labour rights” and how the phenomenon of trade liberalization is jeopardizing them;
- examining the main levels, actors, sources involved in this field;
- understanding the most widespread tools and strategies used in order to balance the economic and social needs;
- examining the most important case studies on this field

IV. Learning outcomes

By the end of this course students should be able:

- to identify which are the levels, the actors and the sources involved in this field
- to analyse the most important issues concerning the so called labour rights and their relationship with the phenomenon of trade liberalization
- to critically evaluate the most important tools and strategies used in this field
- to improve the legal language on this topic

V. Methodology

Class attendance is mandatory (students will be required to attend at least 75% of classes to be able to sit the exam).

The detailed course programme will be provided at the beginning of the course.

The programme will be available on ARIEL after each lesson.
Some lessons will be dedicated to the discussion of case-studies.

VI. Assessment

Students will be evaluated upon both their active participation to the case-studies and the marks obtained in the final written/oral test.

VII. Study material

The study material will be available on ARIEL after each lesson.

VIII. Suggested preparatory readings

1) A. Goldin, *Global Conceptualizations and Local Constructions of the Idea of Labour Law*, forthcoming, pp. 69-87

2) R. Bellace, Human Rights at Work: *The Need for Definitional Coherence in the Global Governance System*, *The International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial relations* 2014, pp. 175-198