

Course Description for AGEP Network

Name of Module/Course		Law and Development: Safeguarding Human Rights and Social Protection		
Short description		The Law and Development course explores the critical relationship between legal frameworks and social, economic and human development.		
Name of Programme		M.A. Development Management		
Name of University		Ruhr University Bochum (Institute for Development Research and Development Policy)		
Name of Lecturer		Ricarda Rahn. Dipl.-Jur.		
Responsible University lecturer		Ricarda Rahn, Dipl.-Jur.		
Credit Points	SWS	Attendance (h)	Self-study (h)	Total workload (h)
3		30	60	90
Start & end dates, WS		timeslot:		
16.06.-20.06.2025		Mo: 13-17, Tue+Wed: 9-16, Fr: 9-15		
Registration until		Number of possible AGEP participants		
11.05.2025		5		
Content and goals of qualification	<p>Content:</p> <p>The Law and Development course explores the critical relationship between legal frameworks and social, economic and human development. The course provides a comprehensive examination of how law can both promote and impede development. It focuses on key legal aspects of international agreements, human rights, governance, and development cooperation, with particular emphasis on the impact of international trade agreements, investment treaties, and human rights frameworks on development. Students will be introduced to the legal structures, disputes and arguments commonly found in development-related contexts. With this overarching perspective, the course covers international economic law and the legal foundations of development cooperation. It also provides insights into human rights-based approaches. The course examines international, regional, and national human rights law as a guiding framework for understanding development cooperation.</p> <p>In preparation for the course, students will receive required readings and an introductory video presentation at least 8 weeks prior to the start of contact hours. They will also be assigned topics for their essays and presentations, along with specific texts to help them prepare.</p> <p>Structure:</p> <p>A. Introduction: Law and Development</p> <p> I. The Relationship between ‘Law’ and ‘Development’</p> <p> II. Introduction to International Law and Legal Systems</p> <p>B. Overview Human Rights Law</p> <p> I. International Human Rights Frameworks: UDHR, ICCPR, ICESCR</p> <p> II. Implementation of Social Human Rights in National Constitutions</p> <p> III. Human Rights-Based Approaches to Development</p> <p>C. Legal Foundations of Development Cooperation</p> <p> I. Regulation of Development Aid</p>			

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	<p>II. Institutional Framework: United Nations, World Bank, IMF, and WTO</p> <p>III. Case Studies on Development Cooperation</p> <p>D. International Economic Law</p> <p>I. History and Organizational Structure of the WTO</p> <p>II. Trade in Goods (GATT), Trade in Services (GATS), Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS)</p> <p>III. Investment Treaties and Legal Protection for Foreign Investment</p> <p>E. Contemporary Global Challenges and the Law</p> <p>Learning outcomes:</p> <p>At the end of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the principles and challenges of legal frameworks in the context of development. • Explore the relationship between human rights and development, analyzing human rights-based approaches to development. • Examine international trade agreements, such as the main WTO documents (GATT, GATS, and TRIPS), and bilateral trade and investment treaties, and their role in global development. • Analyze the legal aspects of development cooperation at the international, regional and national levels. • Assess the implementation and enforcement of social human rights in various countries, including India and South Africa. • Critically reflect on the concepts and theories in the field of law and development. • Interpret and transmit their knowledge, skills and ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences. • Have autonomously and independently read and comprehended a case or specific legal question based on one or two assigned texts, critically appraised the case or question, and presented their thoughts in a written and oral presentation.
Preconditions for participation	Basic knowledge in Development studies.
Teaching Methods	Power-point-based lecture with lecturer-student interactions; guided discussion; group works and exercises; case studies; student presentations; self-study
lesson format (online/face-to-face)	Face-to-face at IEE in Bochum.
Assessment method	Short written assignment (~3,000 words) based on an oral presentation (~10 – 15 minutes). Students have the possibility to indicate a preference for a topic from a list of offered topics. For the preparation of the presentation, students will be assigned one or two texts at least 8 weeks before the course. The students will read, comprehend and critically analyse the case and/or legal questions the text(s) present. Submission date will be after the end of the course. The exact date will be communicated at the beginning of the semester.
language	English.
Inscription external student	E-mail via leonie.grunau@rub.de to MADM coordinator Leonie S. Grunau including proof of necessary preconditions until 11.05.2025.