

University of Fribourg – Hebrew University of Jerusalem Joint Seminar in International Law

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Autumn Semester 2016

Description: The UniFr-HUJ joint seminar enables six students from the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) and six students from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel) to meet to discuss various international law issues arising from the film *The Law in these Parts* (Ra'anan Alexandrowicz, 2012; <https://www.thelawfilm.com/eng>) during two three-days sessions in Jerusalem and in Fribourg in the autumn 2016. The issues discussed in the film and during the seminar pertain to the (domestic and international) law applicable to and in the occupied territories. They include issues in legal and political philosophy (related mostly to the concept of law and a legal system, the rule of law, legal pluralism, the right to legal resistance (violent or not), the notion of state of emergency, separation of powers, legal authority and legitimacy, law and power, law and justice, law and legality, law and equality, judicial law-making, judicial independence and the relation between the judiciary and politics and the judiciary and the military, democracy, law and truth, law and history, law and time), in general international law (related mostly to jurisdiction, State territory and property/ownership, statehood and self-determination), in international human rights law (related mostly to due process guarantees, right to life, right to food, private property, non-discrimination and the prohibition of torture (and use of torture-related evidence), but also to other structural human rights issues such as jurisdiction, restrictions and derogations, balancing and proportionality) and in international humanitarian law (related mostly to the law of occupation (whether it is distinct from IHL or not), to the distinction between civilians and combatants, to the notion and status of terrorists, to the notion and status of prisoners of war). Meetings with legal professionals from the ICRC, OHCHR, UNRWA and military courts (in Geneva and Jerusalem) are also scheduled during the two sessions.

Format: After an introductory film projection in Fribourg and Jerusalem, the seminar will consist of two joint sessions and an essay. (i) The two sessions (in Jerusalem and in Fribourg) will last three days each and combine student presentations, general discussions in plenum and with invited professionals, and site visits. (ii) After the two seminar sessions in Jerusalem and Fribourg, students will be asked to write an 8'000 words essay in English. In this essay, students should demonstrate a general understanding of their topic as well as a critical appreciation of the theoretical and practical challenges involved in the question being addressed. Students from the University of Fribourg are requested to comply with the *Directives concernant la rédaction de travaux de pro-séminaire, séminaire, travaux de Master, travaux de recherche et rapports de stage en droit (international) public*.

Preparation: Students will receive general readings and seminar questions ahead of time to prepare for the sessions, together with the topic for their respective presentation and essay. The presentation and essay require extensive personal research and autonomous work, however, and no detailed bibliographies will be provided. For each presentation and essay, students from the two universities will be paired. Presentations should last for 40 minutes each, followed by 50 minutes discussion.

Time frame: Autumn semester 2016. Sessions: in Jerusalem: 4-7 September 2016; in Fribourg: 4-7 December 2016. Submission of essays: 15th January, 2017.

Number of students (max.): 6 from Fribourg and 6 from Jerusalem.

Requirements: To participate, students should establish that they have at least attended a general public international law class and, when possible, a class in either international human rights law or international

humanitarian law (both are, of course, an advantage). Bachelor (after IUR I) and Master students from the University of Fribourg may apply equally.

Funding: All costs related to travel, accommodation and meals in Jerusalem and in Fribourg are covered thanks to the generous support of the Jean and Blurette Nordmann Foundation. Students are asked to book their own flight in advance and will be reimbursed upon their return. Accommodation and the meals that are covered will be paid directly by the Foundation.

Assessment: Full participation in the seminar (active participation in the sessions and essay) is recognized as a 5 ECTS Master Seminar (or as Special credits for Bachelor students) for the students of the University of Fribourg and as HU 3 credits for the students of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Students from the University of Fribourg will receive the results during session 1/17 via Gestens.

Registration: Interested students from the University of Fribourg may apply before 1st March, 2016 by sending an email to Ms Aurélie Galetto (aurelie.galetto@unifr.ch), research assistant, with the following information: their last name, first name, private address, email address, mobile phone number and year of study (Bachelor/Master). Registrations should also include a complete CV (with academic transcript and marks), a letter of motivation and a copy of their best written work (*travail de proséminaire, de séminaire, de recherche ou de Master*). Selection criteria will include both time of application (FCFS) and academic merit. Students will be informed about the selection by 6th April, 2016, in time to start booking their flights.

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