UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Judging Human Rights in The Age of The Metaverse

2425-5-A5810284

Learning objectives

The intersection of law, new technologies, and artificial intelligence has now become an essential perspective for study and research in shaping the education of the new generations of students. In this context, this course aims to develop an innovative teaching approach using specialized software and augmented reality tools to analyze significant processes related to fundamental freedoms adjudicated in domestic and international courts.

Contents

Through the integration of new technologies, the course aims to specifically examine key processes that have shaped the history of public and international law:

1) The Milosevic Trial: War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity, and Genocide
Within the framework of the ICTY, a focused study will explore the trial of former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic for war crimes, aiming to examine key themes in international humanitarian law and significant human rights violations. The mock trial will comprehensively explore all stages of the proceeding, delving into key figures and retracing developments through original video footage and contributions from the hearings.

2) Freedom of Expression and Racist Hate Speech in the United States
The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution prohibits Congress from enacting laws that limit freedom of speech. Building upon this provision, this module will examine pivotal cases before the Supreme Court that have shaped the boundaries of free speech within the U.S. constitutional framework. Specifically, this immersive process will focus on sensitive issues surrounding racist "hate speech".

3) The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the Occupied Territories of the West Bank
In the context of the Middle East conflict, the construction of a physical barrier by Israel along the Palestinian border in the West Bank, designed to protect settlement communities, has raised significant legal questions before

two distinct courts: the Israeli Supreme Court and the International Court of Justice. Using a framework of norms, history, economics, and social context surrounding the dispute, the mock trial will analyze the legal issues of both domestic and international constitutional law addressed by these Tribunals.

4) Italian Constitutional Court Judgment no. 1 of 1956
Leveraging immersive educational tools, this module will deeply examine the first landmark decision of the Italian Constitutional Court. Beginning with an analysis of the previous legal system, particularly focusing on the fascist legislation under scrutiny for its legitimacy, the simulated legal proceedings will explore the implications for the democratic state structure resulting from the Court's intervention.

Detailed program

1) The Milosevic Trial: War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity, and Genocide
Reconstruction of the historical and regulatory context
Introduction of the key figures
Analysis of the accusation and review of supporting documentation
Analysis of the defense and review of supporting documentation
Simulation of the trial
Drafting of the decision

2) Freedom of Expression and Racist Hate Speech in the United States
Reconstruction of the historical and regulatory context
Introduction of the key figures
Analysis of the accusation and review of supporting documentation
Analysis of the defense and review of supporting documentation
Simulation of the trial
Drafting of the decision

3) The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the Occupied Territories of the West Bank
Reconstruction of the historical and regulatory context
Introduction of the key figures
Analysis of the accusation and review of supporting documentation
Analysis of the defense and review of supporting documentation
Simulation of the trial
Drafting of the decision

4) Italian Constitutional Court Judgment no. 1 of 1956
Reconstruction of the historical and regulatory context
Presentation of the key figures
Examination of the question of constitutional legitimacy
Analysis of the State Attorney's briefs and review of supporting documentation
Analysis of the private parties' briefs and review of supporting documentation
Trial simulation
Drafting of the decision

Prerequisites

Strong proficiency in Constitutional, International, and Comparative Public Law

Teaching methods

Professors will use the application as a technical tool during lectures, conducting in-depth workshops on specific topics and culminating in a courtroom simulation to engage students in various procedural roles.
Additionally, students will individually interact with the immersive software, consulting and exploring hypertextual sources to tailor their study paths and delve deeper into different subjects based on their interests and abilities. By the end of their preparation, students will be capable of actively participating in a mock trial, assuming roles such as prosecution, defense, and judges.
Introductory remarks, cultural context, and regulatory framework will be conveniently accessible through a dedicated graphical interface, presenting all relevant events for judgment and providing a clearer understanding of the socio-historical context portrayed.
The reconstruction of trials will be central to the entire immersive experience, featuring a 3D simulation of the courtroom and participants. This simulation will incorporate videos, texts, or clickable links in an external interactive interface, enhancing the learning experience.
More specifically, the teaching will be organized as follows:
11 interactive sessions, each lasting 2 hours
2 frontal remote sessions, each lasting 2 hours
8 interactive exercises, each lasting 2 hours

Assessment methods

For attending students, learning assessment will involve active participation in various simulations, with particular emphasis on their involvement in each phase. This assessment will include both a written presentation of the trials and their oral exposition.
For non-attending students, examination methods will be individually agreed upon with the Professor. This will start with the use of immersive software and include the written and oral presentation of a specific case.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

All exam materials will be fully accessible through interactive educational softwares.
Additional materials may be provided during classes or obtained by directly contacting the Professor.

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS