COMPARATIVE LAW
(2015/2016)

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General purpose of the course

This course aims at providing students with an overview of the main legal systems of the contemporary world, with particular emphasis on those of the civil law and common law legal families. The different forms of interaction between those legal systems, especially those arising from the formation of hybrid legal systems and the harmonisation and unification of laws associated with international economic integration, shall also be analysed in the course.

Lecturing system and use of languages

The course is divided into general lectures, in which the topics of the program are expounded systematically, and seminars, in which cases and statutes are discussed with students. Lectures will be given in Portuguese and, for Erasmus students, in English. Tutorials are also available upon request.

Evaluation method

The course may be attended either in the continuous or the final evaluation methods. Students that enrol in the continuous evaluation system may submit a research paper on a topic of their choice, prepared under the supervision of the course lecturers. Written tests and papers may be presented in English, French, German, Portuguese or Spanish. Oral examinations may also be conducted in either of these languages.

Summary of the course

Introduction

Part I – The major legal systems of the world compared
1. Legal systems in general
2. The Roman-German legal family
3. The Common Law legal family
4. The Muslim legal family
5. African legal systems
6. Hindu Law
7. Chinese law
8. A comparative synthesis

Part II – The interaction between legal systems
1. Hybrid legal systems
2. Reception of foreign law
3. The international harmonization and unification of legal systems and their limits
Bibliography


Internet sites with free access

http://www.biicl.org (British Institute of International and Comparative Law).
http://comparativelawblog.blogspot.com (Comparative Law Blog)
http://www.constitution.org (Constitution Society)
http://www.dvr.euv-frankfurt-o.de/Welcome.html (Der virtuelle Rechtsvergleicher).
http://www.ejls.eu (European Journal of Legal Studies)
http://www.gddc.pt (Gabinete de Documentação e Direito Comparado).
http://www.germanlawjournal.com (German Law Journal).
http://www.isdc.ch (Institut Suisse de Droit Comparé).
http://www.juriguide.com (Juriguide).
http://en.jurispedia.org (Jurispedia).
http://www.legiscompare.com (Société de Legislation Comparée).