

## Globalisation and the law

### ABSTRACT

'Globalisation and the Law' considers the changing role of law (both domestic and international) in the global economy. This online role play is designed to help build participant's knowledge about how specific fields of law are influenced by globalisation, and how global flows are regulated by laws and legal institutions.

### KEYWORDS

Law, Globalisation, Legal Education

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### DESCRIPTION

'Globalisation and the law' encourages participants to explore the influence of globalisation on laws and legal institutions from the perspective of various stakeholders in globalisation. The specific tasks participants are required to complete are tailored to the topic area under consideration. For example, interviews form the core of tasks in Scene 1, International Migration, while Scene 2 involves formal submission to a Joint Standing Committee. Participants engage in both Scenes 1 and 2 however, the roles allocated are different for each scene.

### AUDIENCE/GROUP SIZE

- Embedded into the *U21 Certificate in Global Issues* a multi-disciplinary program offered by the [Universitas 21](#) network to the students of the Universities of British Columbia (Canada), Hong Kong (China), and Nottingham (United Kingdom), Queensland (Australia), Lund (Sweden), and Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico).
- Also available as a stand-alone subject in Law at University of Melbourne at under and post graduate level
- Can be scaled to accommodate large and smaller cohorts
- Has been run in groups of less than 40

### LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Participants are provided with an opportunity to further develop their understanding and appreciation of the:

- diverse perspectives which inform not only the debates on globalisation and the law, but also laws and regulatory frameworks themselves;
- legal institutions and frameworks governing global flows of capital and labour;
- roles played by various actors influencing regulation of global flows, including: national governments, international institutions, advocacy groups, non-governmental organisations, transnational corporations, labour unions, recruitment agencies, etc;
- skills of advocacy, critical legal analysis, legal research and writing;
- complex ways in which different legal forums and institutions at the national and international levels relate in promoting, ordering and enforcing global flows; and
- debates regarding globalisation and the limitation or loss of state sovereignty or regulatory power

### TIME AND SETTING

- The role play involves contemporary fictionalized scenarios based on Australia and China
- Participation requires semester long engagement within which interaction in-role is conducted over two sessions each of five week duration (2 x 5 weeks).

## RESOURCES

- Globalisation and the Law is delivered via the University of Melbourne's Learning Management System utilising a wide range of tools including calendar, world clock, announcements, meeting planner.
- There are two online tools for collaboration within the role play.
  - **Discussion boards**, for communication among classmates assigned to the same character. These allow participants to form study groups within their character, have conversations, or otherwise communicate as they would in a real-life university environment. Participants are encouraged to use this tool to establish solid and friendly relationships with the other personalities that inhabit the same character.
  - **Wikis** for jointly building the documents characters must submit for assessment. This tool is only to be used to create the text of the assessment.
- Comprehensive Student Handbook

## ASSESSMENT

- The **online role play exercise** takes place over the duration of the course and involves role play activities in two 'scenes'. Ongoing collaborative tasks associated with these 2 scenes have a combined total of **2000 words** and contribute **50%** of the final mark for the subject.
- The details of each collaborative task, due dates and word limits are dependent upon the particular assigned character in the role play exercises. Full details are provided for participants through the Scene 1 and 2 Introduction pages.
- In addition to these assessment tasks, participants must satisfy two further requirements in order to pass the subject.
  1. Participation in an orientation exercise, which is designed to introduce students to the class and to subject's LMS webpage, and how to navigate it.
  2. Adequate participation in online discussions.

## ROLE PLAY PROCESSES

*Globalisation and the Law* is a fully online subject with the bulk of the teaching period devoted to **two interactive Scenes**, each lasting **four weeks**. **Scene 1 deals with International Migration while Scene two explores Investment Agreements.**

1. In each Scene, there is a particular legal scenario, and four characters that must complete certain tasks.
2. Participants are assigned a character for each Scene. They must work in groups and collaborate with other class members assigned to this character. The readings and tasks are different for each character.
3. The final part of each Scene is a week-long discussion period.
4. In each Scene, there are 3 kinds of readings:
  - a. general readings for everyone, relating to the themes of the Scene;
  - b. specific readings depending upon assigned character;
  - c. readings for the Scene's discussion period (to be read by everyone).

## FACILITATOR ISSUES

- Facilitators ran several online chats with students to clarify aspects of the role play and to support students also to encourage engagement
- Time zone – playing across time zones needs to be managed
- Support area online for teachers
- Facilitators engaged in-role as members of the UN

## REUSABILITY

Suitable for use in under and post graduate courses within Law, Politics, Public Policy, Social Science, International Studies. Could be used for cross-disciplinary learning.