Titre du cours - Course title

Human Rights and Business

Type de cours : Séminaire d’ouverture

Langue du cours / Language of instruction : English

Enseignant(s) – Professor(s)

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Résumé du cours – Objectifs - Course description – Targets

Human Rights and business (HR&B) have been put on the agenda these last years, especially since the adoption of the Ruggie’s principles by the UN Council on Human Rights in 2011. HR&B refers to the respect of HR principles by companies on the whole planet. It concerns not only local companies but also Multinational Companies (MNC) that are supposed to control their subsidies as well as their suppliers or subcontractors along their global value chain. HR&B also refers to the wider notion of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and the way that companies are taking into account civil society’s pressure to respect Human Rights & the environment beyond mere legal requirements. The main goal of this course would be to provide students with a critical reflection on the ability of Corporate Social Responsibility practices to reform business practices, increase Human Rights protection at work and improve environment protection. Based on theoretical as well as empirical cases, the seminar invites students to consider how the development of CSR practices might be considered somewhere between an attempt of MNCs to avoid stricter governmental regulations through the promotion of self regulation and real improvements driven through civil society pressure.

Evaluation - Assessment

A group of students present one case chosen by the group among those proposed for each session. Selected texts chosen by the teacher can help students’ presentations.

- Each group receives a grade for their presentation made during the course
- Participation of each student during sessions are taking into account for the final grade (can add up to 2 points)

Plan – Séances - Course outline

Session 1 : General introduction
Session 2: HR&B controversies
Session 3 : HR & Business norms
Session 4: the auditing industry of CSR
Session 5: CSR, Civil society and the State
Session 6: Alternatives to HR&B and CSR

Bibliographie - Bibliography:


