

The legal dimension(s) of corporate social responsibility

Lecturer: Dr Coralie Raffenne
Contact information:
coralie.raffenne@dauphine.psl.eu

Department: LSO
Semester: 1

Course level: L3
Domain: Law
Teaching language: English
Number of in-class hours: 18
Number of course sessions: 6 (3-hour sessions)
ECTS: 3

Course description and objectives

The aim of this course is twofold:

- to provide an insight into current international, European and national interdisciplinary research and thinking on CSR and the law.
- to develop research and critical skills through assignments on a broad range of current issues and developments in the regulation of CSR

Prerequisites

Basic undergraduate knowledge in law (even only national) and/or business.

Learning outcomes

Students taking this course will gain specific knowledge regarding both the legal regulation of CSR and the influence of CSR on the law. The focus will not be confined to French law but explore issues raised in international law, EU law and common law jurisdictions. Students will be expected to read and research broadly to build their own perspective on complex issues.

Assignments and grading

- 50% coursework: oral presentation, written test, participation, homework
- 50% final written exam

The numerical grade distribution will dictate the final grade. The passing grade for a course is 10/20.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend all classes, arrive on time, and stay for the entire session. Repeated absences or lateness may affect the final grade.

Class Participation

Active participation is encouraged, as it contributes to making classes more engaging and instructive. Students are expected to come prepared and contribute thoughtfully to discussions. When participation is part of the course assessment, it is evaluated based on the quality of contributions rather than their quantity.

Exam Policy

Students are not allowed to bring any materials into exams, except those explicitly authorized by the instructor. Unexcused absences from exams or failure to submit assigned cases will result in a grade of zero when calculating final averages. All exams must be submitted at the end of the examination period.

Communication and Grading

All questions or concerns regarding grading or course policies must follow the official procedures. No direct negotiation with instructors about grades or assessments is permitted.

Course structure

Session	Topic
1	CSR's definitional gap
2	Defining sustainability: the UN's Sustainable Development Goals
3	Sustainable Finance EU style: Sustainable Finance Action Plan : The Taxonomy regulation, the CSRD, The SFDR
4	Beyond transparency: the regulation of corporate due diligence: The Ruggie Framework , The UNGP and their national applications, the case of the French duty of vigilance
5	Corporations and Transnational environmental litigation: the Vedanta, Dooh v Shell and Total cases
6	EXAM

Bibliography

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Gond, Jean Pascal, Igalens, Jacques, La Responsabilité Sociale de L'Entreprise, 7 ème édition, 2023, Que sais-je, PUF

Kerr, Janda, Pitts, Corporate Social Responsibility - A Legal Analysis, 2009, LexisNexis Canada

Lyon, Thomas P., Maxwell John W., "Corporate Social Responsibility and the Environment: A Theoretical Perspective", 2007, Journal of Environmental Law

Mc Barnett, Doreen (ed), The New Corporate Accountability : Corporate Social Responsibility and the Law, Cambridge University Press, 2009

Christine Parker "Meta-Regulation: Legal Accountability for Corporate Social Responsibility?", The New Corporate Accountability: Corporate Social Responsibility and the Law, Cambridge University Press, 2007

Rühmkorf, Andreas, Corporate Social Responsibility, Private Law and Global Supply Chains, Corporations, Globalisation and the Law series, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2015

Sikka, Prem, "Smoke and mirrors: Corporate social responsibility and tax avoidance", 2010, Working Paper, University of Essex

Lecturer's biography

Coralie Raffenne holds an LL.M in International and European law and a Ph.D. in law (University of Warwick-UK). She has been teaching European Law and Corporate Social Responsibility at Dauphine for the past ten years. Her research interests include the CSR and the law, the corporate anthropocene and feminist economics.

Moodle

This course is on Moodle: Yes

Academic integrity

Be aware of the rules in Université Paris Dauphine about plagiarism and cheating during exams. All work turned in for this course must be your own work, or that of your own group. Working as part of a group implies that you are an active participant and fully contributed to the output produced by that group.