Under what conditions do governments comply with international norms? How can international courts secure respect for their orders? Because international courts lack effective means of enforcement, governments often defy their rulings. We will analyze why governments adhere to court orders and how international bodies can become more effective. We will also introduce advanced methodological tools to analyze and predict compliance. Students in the seminar will have the opportunity to participate in research projects integrated to the Notre Dame Reparations Design and Compliance Lab (NDRL). Participants will be able to use the tools acquired in the course to analyze compliance with the rulings of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the World Bank Inspection Panel, and other international bodies.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Conduct an original research project employing social science instruments.
2. Prepare a quantitative report on compliance combining legal and data science principles.
3. Collect and analyze empirical data, using quantitative methods.
4. Use basic commands in R statistical software.
5. Engage with the Notre Dame Reparations Design and Compliance Lab to advance a research project assessing government compliance with human rights.
Materials

No textbook is required for this class; we will read academic articles and watch some videos to introduce methodological topics. All readings are available through Hesburgh Library or the Law Library, online (open access), or through Sakai (in the case of unpublished materials).

Note: Items marked as Read or Watch in the Course Schedule are required for all students. Additional items marked as Recommended are optional for undergraduate students, but required for graduate students.

Statistical Software: We will use free software to analyze data. Do not worry if you have no prior experience, we will cover data analysis tools in class. Install R and R Studio. (Instructions in Sakai.)

Laptop: Bring a laptop to class. You should be able to access Sakai and run R Studio in class.

Additional Resources

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- Main page: http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/

Inter-American Court of Human Rights
- Main page: http://www.corteidh.or.cr/
- Case summaries (Loyola Law School): https://iachr.lls.edu/database

European Court of Human Rights
- Main page: https://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=home
- Case database: https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/

World Bank Inspection Panel
- Main page: https://www.inspectionpanel.org/
- Panel cases: https://www.inspectionpanel.org/panel-cases

Covid Security Policy

Due to the rapid dissemination of the Delta variant, I will ask everyone in class to wear a mask. I understand that this is very frustrating, but we owe this extra effort to our colleagues who are immunocompromised or who live with immunocompromised or unvaccinated people (especially children). We will adjust this policy during the semester following University regulations.
Course Evaluation

All assignments should be uploaded through Sakai before the deadline. Do not e-mail me assignments.

Four reports using data-analysis tools to assess compliance (15% each). In each report, you will address a specific research question about compliance with international norms, using a different statistical technique. Reports are brief (2-4 pages), but they require you to analyze data and interpret quantitative results. Instructions will be posted in Sakai, under Assignments. Due September 20, October 11, November 15, December 5.

Class presentation (15%). We will form teams who will make brief presentations related to the fourth analytic report (November 29 and December 1).
- Each team should upload a presentation file (e.g., Powerpoint) in Sakai before November 29
- Presentations should have no more than 6 slides
- Delivery of the presentation must be completed in 8 minutes
- Use minimal text – slides are not your notes
- Use figures and tables to convey your findings
- Frontload the main conclusion (bottom line up front)

Quizzes (15%). This course has no exams, but completing the readings and watching required videos before class is crucial. I will assess your understanding of the materials with brief quizzes. Quizzes will be deployed in Sakai, and I will ask you to complete them in class. Besides substantive questions about the content of the readings, you should be ready to answer questions such as…
- In one sentence, summarize the main argument of the article.
- How does the argument in this reading relate to last week’s readings?

Class attendance and participation (10%). The course will be interesting only to the extent that you are engaged in the conversation. I will assess your engagement based on several considerations:
- Preparedness. I will often pose questions at the end of the class, or ask you to consider problems or complete small tasks in preparation for our next class (for example, you must be ready to run R Studio in your laptop by August 30). I will expect you to be prepared for each meeting.
- Active engagement in class discussions.
- Active engagement in data-analysis exercises conducted in class.
- Evidence of low-quality engagement, such as unjustified absences, multitasking in class, etc.

Note: We will meet in the Law School (1140 of Eck Hall of Law) on 9/1, 9/29, and 10/6
Course Schedule

* = Indicates an assignment due

Monday, August 23 – Introduction

Wednesday, August 25 – National and International Law


Monday, August 30 – Creating and Reading Datasets

* Before class: Install R and R Studio in your computer. Create a folder for your R files. (Look for instructions in Sakai)

  Tutorial (Windows): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFGYIkVQE4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFGYIkVQE4)
  Tutorial (Mac): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LaNBozXJjOk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LaNBozXJjOk)

Wednesday, September 1 – Reparations and Compliance with International Law

** Professor Diane Desierto will address this topic. We will meet at 1140 of Eck Hall of Law **


Monday, September 6 – Conceptualizing and Estimating Causal Effects

What does aspirin have to do with international law?

Wednesday, September 8 – Second-Order Compliance


Monday, September 13 – Dealing with Uncertainty

Watch: p-values (5 min.): https://youtu.be/3viE4s-Xm7U
What is a p-value? by Daniel Lakens (20 min.): https://youtu.be/RVxHlsIw_Do

Wednesday, September 15 – Compliance in the European Court of Human Rights


Monday, September 20 – Regression Analysis

First Analytic Report due at 5 pm

Watch: An Introduction to Linear Regression Analysis (5 min.): https://youtu.be/zPG4NjlkCjc
Watch: Multiple Linear Regression Using R: https://youtu.be/WRp_MpYQFbg

Wednesday, September 22 – The Inter-American System


Monday, September 27 – Confounders, Reporting Multivariate Results and Predictive Capacity


Watch: How to Calculate R Squared: [https://youtu.be/w2FKXOa0HGA](https://youtu.be/w2FKXOa0HGA)

Wednesday, September 29 – Beyond States: Independent Accountability Mechanisms

**Professor Diane Desierto will address the topic. We will meet at 1140 of Eck Hall of Law**


Monday, October 4 – Compliance with the Inter-American Commission


Wednesday, October 6 – Self-Determination, Democracy, and Compliance

** We will meet at 1140 of Eck Hall of Law **


Recommended: full text of the Advisory Opinion, available HERE

Monday, October 11 – Data Management

花钱 Second Analytic Report due at 5 pm

For a quick reference on data management in R: Ismay, Chester and Albert Y. Kim. 2021. ModernDive, Chapter 3. https://moderndive.com/3-wrangling.html (we will only cover some of the functions discussed in this chapter)

Wednesday, October 13 – Compliance with the Inter-American Court


Monday, October 18 – No class (break)

Wednesday, October 20 – No class (break)
Monday, October 25 – The Analysis of Categorical Outcomes

Watch: Linear Regression vs Logistic Regression (20 min.): https://youtu.be/OCwZyYH14uw
Binary Logistic Regression in R (15 min.): https://youtu.be/HdB-z0TJRk4

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 – Political Will


Monday, November 1 - Transforming Data and Creating New Variables

Watch: Tables of regressions for Word (20 min.): https://youtu.be/VrpcB1UeJJc
How to Create a Categorical Regression Model in R (12 min.): https://youtu.be/qst0QGBntxc

Wednesday, November 3 – Domestic Implementation Mechanisms


Monday, November 8, 2021 – Making Predictions

Watch: Logistic Regression in R Studio (10 min.): https://youtu.be/iyU2CkHrfQk
Watch: LOGIT REGRESSION IN R (13 min.): https://youtu.be/LdrRY4Wb3MA

Wednesday, November 10 – Dissenting Opinions


Monday, November 15 – Discrete-Time Duration Models

❖ Third Analytic Report due at 5 pm

Watch: Brief Introduction to Survival Analysis (15 min.): https://youtu.be/1kp7tV8yqVU

Wednesday, November 17 – Supervision of Compliance: Shaming or Dialogue?


Monday, November 22 – Non-Linear Effects

Watch: POLYNOMIAL REGRESSION: https://youtu.be/Qnt2vBRW8Io

Wednesday, November 24 – No class (Thanksgiving)

Monday, November 29 – Class Presentations

Wednesday, December 1 – Class Presentations

Monday, December 6 – Impacts Beyond Compliance

❖ Fourth Analytic Report due at 5 pm
