

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
On Track - Undergraduate Space Education (3)

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TEACHING SPACE LAW: THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW METHODS

Abstract

Teaching space policy and space law at undergraduate is nowadays a very important challenge to assure the sustainability of the use of outer space. Nevertheless, sometimes it is a complicated task and the access to information is not easy, especially in developing countries where access to literature, libraries and books is almost impossible. Another problem is the lack of interest from the students and perhaps appeal of matter as such, which can create doubts for law schools to implement the course.

Based on these ideas it is necessary to develop new teaching methods to ensure the success in the teaching of space law and space public policy.

The first and most novel methodology is the use of an application for smartphones, Space Law App (SLA). The main idea is to facilitate to anyone an easy, quick and free access, in multiple languages to the space law framework. This App can be used by teachers in class. This method makes part of a research project with students (since January 2014), who are responsible for setting the content and keep updated the App.

The second pedagogical tool, is the use of movies and videos, especially the movie "Gravity" in two ways. First, by doing projections meetings of the movie at the University, open to all the students, followed by a discussion of the legal problems to explain the importance of space law. Secondly, by using it in law and space policy class to teach to students the implications of accidents in space, the "space debris" issues, the legal regime of the astronauts and liability Convention.

Finally, students are encouraged to take the course through the participation in regional rounds Mander Lachs Moot Court of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL). In addition, the course is based on the methodology of problem based learning (PBL), based on previous cases of Moot Court to prepare the students to the moot court.

This paper seeks to describe the different pedagogical methods that are being implemented at the University Sergio Arboleda in order to achieve having students interested in taking classes space law and space public policy.