Biotechnology is one of the hopes and hypes of modern technological developments. The dynamics of its development, including recent inventions such as CRISPR-Cas and gene drive, have raised concerns about their side effects on human health and ecosystems, but also about their alleged promises and distributional effects. The law on the one side promotes biotechnology and on the other intervenes in order to prevent harm and ensure the sharing of benefits drawn. The course will go along these conflicting functions. The following topics shall be addressed:

I. The arts of biotechnology and their application
II. Actors, conflicts and politics of biotech
III. Biotech and intellectual property
IV. Biotech and the benefit discourses
V. Risks of biotech for human health and the environment and their regulation
VI. Access to genetic resources and the sharing of benefits from their utilisation

Participation is open for advanced students only. While primarily offered to students of law, students of social and natural sciences are also admitted. Those who have doubts about their language facilities should not hesitate to join in. The lecturer will speak slowly, translate core terms, explain core concepts in German, etc.

A list of readings will be attached later on.