

LL4031V/LL5031V/LLJ5031V/LL6031V International Environmental Law

“How law relates to the environmental challenges facing the region and the world”

Brief Description:

International law traditionally concerns itself with the relations between states, yet environmental problems transcend borders. International environmental law demonstrates how international norms can affect national sovereignty on matters of common concern. The course surveys international treaties concerning the atmosphere and on land and sea, the conservation of nature and resources, and connections to trade, investment and economic development. Institutions and principles to promote compliance and cooperation are also examined. The course will assist students in their understanding of international law-making. It would be of use to those interested in careers involving international law, both for the government and public sector and those in international trade and investment.

Assessment:

Class Participation - 15%; Presentation (individual by video recording) - 25%; 6-Hr Take Home Exam - 60%

Aims

1. To foster an understanding of international law in relation to specific global and regional environmental challenges.
2. To survey the development of international environmental law in principles, treaties and institutions and their relation to general international law and global society.
3. To examine the certainty, force and enforceability of international law between and within nations, especially developing countries.

Text:

Dupuy and Vinuales, International Environment Law, Cambridge University Press.

Schedule of Seminars

	Seminar	Main Qs	Text
1.	Overview: International Law and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of IEL• Main features and actors• Sovereignty, responsibility and cooperation	Chps 1, 2 (p.1-48)
2.	Principles and Norms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sources and soft law• Key principles esp. Sustainable development, Pr. 21 and common and differentiated responsibility• Questions of implementation	Chp 3 (51-86)
3.	Approaches to Species Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Species, Fishing and Whaling• CITES• Environment and Trade measures	Chp 6 (158-66) (167-172) Chp 12 (391-405)
4.	Sovereign Territory and Environmental Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oceans, Seas and Water• Habitats and Biodiversity• Forest and Tropical Rainforests	Chp 4 (93-115) Chp 6 (173-194) TBA

5.	Transboundary pollution and Haze	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pr 21 and Evolution of CIL • The LRTAP Convention • Haze in SE Asia and National Law 	TBA Chp. 5 (p.122-127) TBA
6.	Ozone treaties and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ozone treaties • Kyoto Protocol to Paris Agreement • Common and Differentiated Responsibility 	Chp. 5 (p.131-155)
		<i>Term Break</i>	
7.	A Singaporean Perspective	Talk by external speaker on Biodiversity and Nature or Climate Change	
8.	In class Negotiation	In class role playing negotiation on assigned problem.	TBA
9.	Implementation: Traditional approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring • Dispute settlement and Liability • National Courts 	Chp. 8 (237-266)
10.	Implementation: New approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance • Development, IFIs and ODA • Efficiency, Rationality and rights: EIAs 	Chp. 9 (p.270-292)
11.	Environment and Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment and Environment • Green Finance • MNCs and supply chains 	Chp. 12 (p.378-390) TBA TBA
12.	Summary		