

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SPRING 2019

Course Instructors: Kasybekova Kanykei, Esenkulova Begaiym
Number of Credits: 6 credit hours
Office Hours: By appointment
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I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

As the number of pressing environmental problems around the world is increasing, there is a growing need to understand the legal framework for environmental protection. The objective of this course is to provide students with sound knowledge of international environmental law and explore its nexus with sustainable development goals. The course will cover sources, principles of international environmental law, and substantive regulation related to the protection of water resources, the atmosphere, biodiversity as well as waste management. In addition, special attention will be paid to international environmental adjudication and mechanisms for facilitation of compliance. Apart from this, the course will explore environmental dimensions of issues related to trade, intellectual property rights, human rights, business, and investment. In addressing these topics, the course will consider principles and goals of sustainable development as applied to them.

The course will be a mixture of lectures and interactive in-class activities. All of the in-class activities and assignments are aimed at helping students not only to put substantive knowledge gained into practice, but also further improve their proficiency in verbal and written communication as well as their analytical and problem-solving skills.

II. PROGRAM AND COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Graduates of the Law Program should have the following competencies:

1. carry out professional activities in good faith on the basis of developed legal consciousness, legal thinking, and legal culture and with observation of ethical principles of the legal profession;
2. apply professional judgment, perform quality legal analysis, conduct legal research, and solve legal problems;
3. be able to speak and write in an argumentative, logical, and clear way in the legal context, have skills necessary to draft legal documents, be fluent in the English language at the level of professional communication;
4. draft normative legal acts and carry out their legal expertise in the field of professional activity;

5. interpret and apply substantive and procedural norms, provide qualified legal opinions and consultations in concrete types of legal activity;
6. demonstrate leadership qualities, active citizenship, take and develop initiatives aimed at promotion of civil society and welfare state;
7. understand the essence and significance of information in the development of modern society and law, master the basic methods of working with information and information technologies in the professional sphere.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- elaborate on the conceptual framework and historical development of international environmental law (IEL);	1, 2
- understand and differentiate among the various principles of IEL;	1, 2
- comprehend the nexus between IEL and sustainable development goals;	2, 3, 5
- research and analyze the disputes in the field of IEL and apply the gained knowledge to various hypothetical situations;	1, 2,3,5
- understand and analyze the correlation between environmental protection and trade, intellectual property protection and environment, IEL and investment as well as business, environment and human rights;	1, 2,3
- explain the meaning of the right to environmental information and other human rights related to environmental protection;	2, 5
- identify key issues related to governance, environmental justice, and IEL;	2, 3, 6
- construct basic policy arguments related to environmental protection;	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
- conduct thorough research and write on the issues of air pollution, hazardous substances, climate change, biodiversity, freshwater resources, and other course topics.	1, 2, 3, 5, 7

III. TEACHING METHODS

During this course a variety of teaching methods are employed, including but not limited to the Socratic method, lectures, guest lectures, and other methods.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICY

(1) The class will meet twice a week. Class sessions are a mixture of lectures and interactive student-focused activities. Students are expected to come to classes prepared and be ready to discuss the assigned materials.

(2) Students must be ON TIME for classes. If a student comes to class late and the instructors have already marked him/her as absent, the student is considered to be absent for the whole class.

(3) CLASS ATTENDANCE is required. If you cannot attend a class, please, e-mail the instructors in advance to let them know about your absence.

(4) Each student is required to be enrolled in the e-course system (www.e-course.auca.kg). The purpose of the e-course system is to allow students to get access to course materials, upload their course assignments, and benefit from a variety of interactive learning opportunities.

(5) WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS must be submitted by the set deadline and by the means specified by the instructor. Late submissions are NOT allowed.

(6) The student has to follow the AUCA Academic Honesty Code and the Law Division's Policy on Plagiarism. All types of **cheating** (plagiarism, etc.) are strictly prohibited. If a student fails to observe this requirement, the instructor may assign an "F" grade for the work or an "F" grade for the whole course depending on the type of assignment and other circumstances.

(7) CELL PHONES and any other electronic devices should be turned off or kept on a silent mode and are allowed to be used only for academic purposes unless restricted by the instructor.

Please, note that this syllabus is subject to change. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class, and the updated version of the syllabus will be available in the e-course. It is students' duty to stay informed of any adjustments made.

V. GRADING

Attendance and participation	5%
Assignments (quizzes, other types of assignments)	30%
Mid-term exam	25%
Research paper	15%
Final exam	25%

VI. COURSE OUTLINE

Notice: All homework assignments and reading materials for each week are posted in the e-course. Select reading materials are distributed in a hard copy format in class.

Week	Topics
1	The Conceptual Framework and Historical Development of International Environmental Law (IEL)
2	Main Features of IEL. Principles and Sources of IEL.
3	Implementation of IEL (monitoring and reporting). Dispute Settlement and Legal Consequences (international environmental adjudication, international responsibility of states, assessment and reparation of environmental damage)
4	Transboundary Air Pollution. Protection of the Ozone Layer. Climate Change.
5	Dangerous (Hazardous) Substances and Waste
6	Environmental Protection and International Trade Law
7	IEL and Intellectual Property Rights. TRIPs and Environmental Protection. Mid-Term Exam Review.
8	Mid-Term Examination. IEL and Sustainable Development
9	Species and Ecosystems
10	SPRING BREAK
11	Biodiversity. Regulation of Wetlands.
12	Freshwater Resources. Glaciers.
13	IEL and Human Rights. Right to a Clean Environment. Right to Environmental Information (Aarhus Convention).
14	IEL and Investment.
15	Business and Environment. Moot Court.
16	Governance, Environmental Justice, and IEL. Final Exam Review.
17	Final Exam