INR 4351
INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

COURSE SYLLABUS

Dr. Robert Bledsoe
1:30-2:45 TR
CB1-120
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OFFICE: PH 302N
HOURS: 9:00-1:00 TR
(or by appointment)

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Course Objectives**. This one semester course on international environmental law is designed to:
   (1) introduce you to the nature and sources of international environmental law and how it relates to municipal law;
   (2) gain an understanding of the role of law and international organizations in aiding the protection of the global environment;
   (3) familiarize you with the legal principles which govern the various areas of environmental concern;
   (4) examine the common but differentiated rights and duties of the developed and developing states;
   (5) suggest how individuals fit into the environmental scheme of things;
   (6) examine how the international community enforces international environmental norms;
   (9) gain insight into how international environmental law has been instrumental in improving both the human and global environment.

While useful to students desiring to go on to law school or graduate school, the primary purpose of the course is to provide the basic tools for any student to better understand the influence and contribution of law to the global environment in which we live.

2. **Course Requirements**. The course will consist of a series of lectures focusing upon the topics and issues outlined in Section 5. You are encouraged to ask questions, inject personal observations, and challenge the assertions of the professor. Attend all class meetings. While no formal record of attendance is kept, you will find that failure to attend class will soon be reflected in your course performance, as lecture material will often not be found in your reading assignments. **Read** and **master** the material in the assignments. These are found in the textbook for the course:

Philippe Sands and Jacqueline Peel, *Principles of*

International Environmental Law. 3rd ed. Cambridge University Press. 2012.

Reading the assignments and keeping up with the lectures is your responsibility. No specific pages of reading will be given from one lecture to another. Pace yourself according to the topics under consideration during lecture periods. This is a very challenging textbook and is not meant to be a book end in your bookcase. You must constantly work on it or it will get away from you. Furthermore, I would suggest that you take this book with you to law school or graduate school if you want to further pursue the subject matter. It is an excellent reference source.

3. **Examinations**. There will be four examinations during the course. The exams will consist of short answer questions dealing with legal concepts, principles, points of law, hypothetical situations, themes, and case identification and briefing. Exams are not cumulative. Each exam will cover that portion of the material outlined in Section 5. Exams are scheduled as follows and will be held at the normal class time (except for the final)and meeting place:

(1) **Thursday, February 2**
(2) **Tuesday, February 28**
(3) **Thursday, March 30**
(4) **Tuesday, May 2 (1:00-3:50)**

Please provide me with four (4) examination booklets ("blue books" or “green books”) at your earliest convenience. They can be purchased at the Bookstore and will be used to write your answers on exam days. When giving them to me, please make sure that they are in new condition and not crumbled, folded, or soiled. Would you want to take your exam in one in that condition? Give all of them to me prior to the first midterm with your name at the top right corner of one of the four booklets. **Attendance at examinations is mandatory. There are no makeup examinations.** In addition, after the first person has turned in their exam and left the room, no one who is tardy and arrives after that time will be allowed to take the exam. They will have missed the test. All exams will be in **pen** (not pencil). Once an exam has begun, no one is allowed to leave the classroom for any reason (so be prepared ahead of time to remain for the full time when exams begin).

4. **Grades**. There are five possible grades for the course:

Exams	(4 x 30%) = 120 points
Case Brief	(10%) = 10 points

Each student must have **three (3) exam** grades to equal 90% of the

course and one (1) case brief to equal 10% of the course. Thus, you can take all four exams and drop you lowest exam grade or you can skip an exam (including the final exam). Everyone is expected to do the case brief (that grade is not dropped nor can it be presented at a time later than when I call upon you to present your case). Plan wisely. If you miss a test, you have dropped your lowest grade already. In no case is it wise to miss the first examination.

Letter grades: 90-100 = A (NOTE: there will be no +/- grades)
80-89 = B
70-79 = C
60-69 = D
< 60 = F

5. **Assignments**. (Chapters in course textbook)

I.	NATURE AND DEVELOPMENT	Chptrs.1-2
II.	INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE	Chptr.3
III.	SOURCES	Chptr.4

---First midterm (Thursday, February 2)---

IV.	ENFORCEMENT/DISPUTE SETTLEMENT	Chptr.5
V.	PRINCIPLES	Chptr.6
VI.	ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT	Chptr.7
VII.	WATERWAYS	Chptr.8

---Second midterm (Tuesday, February 28)---
Spring Break (March 13-18)
Note: Withdrawal deadline is Wednesday, March 22

VIII.	MARITIME ENVIRONMENT	Chptr.9
IX.	ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY	Chptr.10
X.	HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES/WASTES	Chptr.11-12

---Third midterm (Thursday, March 30)---

XI.	FUNDING/TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER	Chptr.16
XII.	LIABILITY	Chptr.17
XIII.	HUMAN RIGHTS	Chptr.18
XIV.	ECONOMICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT	Chptr.19

---Final exam (Tuesday, May 2 1:00-3:50pm)---

WELCOME TO INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND MAY YOU HAVE A SUCCESSFUL SPRING SEMESTER

Attachments: Guide to Finding and Briefing Cases

Sample of Case Brief
Blank Brief
Glossary of Legal Terms
Environmental web sites
Resources
Law Schools with Environmental Law Emphasis
How to Analyze Treaties
Reality of International Environmental Negotiations

Some ground rules:

(1) Classroom
- no food, drinks (water is ok), smoking
- use of laptops or tape recorders are ok but turn off beepers, pagers, cell phones, etc.
- if you are late, please come anyway but try not to be disruptive when entering the room

(2) Communications
- feel free to e-mail me:
  - office – robert.bledsoe@ucf.edu
  - home - drbled@aol.com
- call me at the office but not at home
  - Main Campus(407-823-2608)
- see me during office hours or call for appointment (see telephone number above)

(3) Exams
- if you are late on exam day and a student has already turned in their exam and departed before you arrive, you are too late and I will not let you take the exam
- during the term, grades are handed back with exams and are not posted on MyGrades. Only the final course grade is posted for you to retrieve online. If you wish materials returned to you, provide me ahead of time with a stamped, addressed mailer and I will do so at the end of the grading period. No grades will be given out by the Department staff, so please do not call them.

NOTE: I am available to discuss information on law schools with a strong emphasis on international environmental law (or other areas of law). In addition, the Department of Political Science has prepared a careers and internships guide for Political Science majors that is available to students on the Department website or can be acquired in hard copy from the Department's Main Office. Also available on the Department website is a student pre-law handbook and webinars on writing your personal statement, law

careers, financing your legal education information, etc.

Note: this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor