INR 4351
INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

COURSE SYLLABUS

Dr. Robert Bledsoe
10:30-11:45 TR
NSC-108
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OFFICE: PH 102B
HOURS: 9:00-10:00;12:00-2:00 TR

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. 978-0-521-14093-5

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.

Book Report Project. You have the option of doing a book report on a selected book to replace an exam grade. In addition to the books listed at the end of Chptr. 1 in the textbook, I also recommend the following:

Al Gore, *An Inconvenient Truth.*
Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything.*
Michael Mann and Lee Kump, *Dire Predictions.*
Jeff Nesbit, *This is the Way the World Ends.*

Or if you have a specific book that interests you that is not among the choices, check with me ahead of time to see if you can do it. If you are going to graduate school for environmental policy or law school for environmental law, then either the newly released IPCC climate report or the also newly released US gov't national climate assessment would be well-worth your time.

I strongly encourage you to elect this research option, as it will help develop critical thinking and writing skills, as well as provide a learning experience in a substantive area in more depth than covered in class. Critical thinking and writing skills are necessary tools for you to succeed in your chosen career field and essential tools for pursuing advanced academic or professional degrees. The following steps are involved for this [project:

a. e-mail me (or hand a hard copy in class) your book choice no later than the end of the day **Thursday, January 24th** (but I will be happy to accept it any time before the deadline). Include in your book choice e-mail or hard copy the following information: author(s), book title, publisher, publication date. **I will not accept your choice after this deadline. You will have chosen not to do the optional project.**
b. after completion of your reading and organizing your notes and materials, develop an outline of how your propose to write your book report and noting at least two scholarly book reviews you will include in your final report. This

way I can see if you are on the right track before writing your report. The typed/dated outline is due no later than the end of the day **Thursday, March 7th.** **No outline will be accepted after this date. You will have opted out of the book report project.**

c. Your final typed double-spaced footnoted report must include:
   a. full bibliographic citation of the book being reviewed
   b. background of the author(s)
   c. major themes of the book
   d. any biases of the book
   e. author(s) conclusions
   f. analysis of at least two scholarly book reviews on the book (including where you agree and disagree with the reviewers)
   g. your personal impressions of the book

   Note: I suggest that the easiest way to format your project is simply follow this outline section by section.

Be sure to footnote all material which is directly quoted or paraphrased. Failure to do so is taking the ideas of others and passing them off as your own. This is plagiarism and will result in an automatic grade of "F" for your book project. Any citation system is acceptable (including your footnotes as an End Note). Your project must be typed and should be approximately 4-5 pages in length but that is merely a suggested target – getting the job done is what is important. Length and word count are not important. There are two deadlines for submitting your book report: **April 4th** if you want to know whether to take the final or **April 18th** if you know you are taking the final. For those books checked out from a library, show respect for the book (no damage, no underlining, no notations, *etc*.).

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, January 31**
(2) **Tuesday, February 26**
(3) **Thursday, March 28**
(4) **Tuesday, April 30 (10:00-12:50)**

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 except for dire medical emergencies (documentation required). You have the exam dates to place on your Spring calendar in January.** Weddings, reunions, trips with family or friends... are, therefore, no surprise and you simply plan ahead or say sorry. 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 – e.g., watch out how much coffee you drink the night before and morning of exams).

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

Exams (4 x 25%) = 100 points
Book Report (25%) = 25 points

Each student must have **four (4)** grades to equal 100% of the course. Thus, you can take all four exams and opt out of the optional Book Report; do the Book Report and drop you lowest exam grade; or you can skip an exam (including the final exam). Plan wisely. If you miss a test, you have dropped your lowest grade already. If you miss the deadline for selecting a book for your Book Report, you cannot decide to do it at a later date – you have opted out. You can always start the project and then quit at any point during the semester. 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)(videos on www.un.org/law/avl)

I. NATURE AND DEVELOPMENT Chptrs.1-2

Edith Weiss, “International Environmental Law”
Edith Weiss, “The Commons, Public Goods, and IL”

II. INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE Chptr.3

III. SOURCES Chptr.4

Jorge Vinuales, “Environmental Protection in Customary IL”

---First midterm (Thursday, January 31)---

IV. ENFORCEMENT/DISPUTE SETTLEMENT Chptr.5

Mohammad Beklechi, “Selected Lessons Learned in Implementation and Compliance with International Legal Instruments related to Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Conservation”

V. PRINCIPLES Chptr.6

Edith Weiss, “The Principle of Intergenerational Equity”

VI. ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT Chptr.7

Shinja Marose, “Protection of the Atmosphere and Codification and Progressive Development of International Law”
Jorge Vinuales, “The International Law of Climate Change after the Paris Agreement”

VII. WATERWAYS Chptr.8

Lucuis Caflish, “The Contemporary Law of International Watercourses” I&II
Stephen McCaffrey, “The UN Convention on the Law of The Non-Navigational Use of International Watercourses”

---Second midterm (Tuesday, February 26)---
Spring Break (week of March 11)
Note: Withdrawal deadline is Wednesday, March 20

VIII. MARITIME ENVIRONMENT Chptr.9

Nilufor Oral. “Climate Change and the Protection Of the Ocean”

IX. ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY Chptr.10

X. HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES/WASTES Chptr.11-12

P.S. Rao, "Prevention of Transboundary Harm Arising from Hazardous Activities"

---Third midterm (Thursday, March 28)---

XI. FUNDING/TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER Chptr.16

XII. LIABILITY Chptr.17

P.S. Rao, "International Liability for Transboundary Harm Arising from Hazardous Activities: Principles on Allocation of Loss"

XIII. HUMAN RIGHTS Chptr.18

XIV. ECONOMICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT Chptr.19

---Final exam (Tuesday, April 30 10:00-12:50pm)---

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

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:

on our web page or

office – robert.bledsoe@ucf.edu

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. Be sure to hit the restroom before taking the exam because once it is handed out no one leaves the room until they have finished the exam and turned it in.

during the term, grades are handed back with exams but will also be posted on our web page. No grades will be given out by the Department staff, so please do not call them. At the end of the course, 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.

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