Syllabus

INR 4351

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Syllabus

Spring 2021

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Robert Bledsoe
Office	Main campus: Phillips Hall 102 (not physically in office for term)
Office Hours	9:00-1:00TR (or by appt.) (e-mail, phone, or Zoom)
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GTA support for our course is provided by

Course Information

Course Name	INR 4351 - International Environmental Law

Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Spring 2021
Location	web-based

Course Description

International Environmental Law is a one-semester online course designed to introduce the student to the legal regime for the global environment. While useful to students desiring to go on to law 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 protection and betterment of the world in which we live. The course is one of the options in the Functional Restricted electives of the International and Global Studies major as well as an elective in the International/Comparative track of the Political Science major (minor) and one of the three options in the Restricted law course of the Pre-Law track of the Political Science major.

Course Objectives

- Introduce you to the nature and sources of international environmental law; how that law developed; and how it relates to municipal (national) law
- Gain an understanding of the role of law in aiding both the protection of and peaceful change in the global environment
- familiarize you with the legal principles governing international environmental law
- examine the rights and duties of states and others entities in dealing with the global environment
- introduce you to the treaties, conventions, protocols, and other documents governing specific environmental issues
- introduce you to the emerging notion of environment global justice
- examine liability and restitution mechanisms for environmental damages

The course will nurture basic tools for you to better understand the law. These tools include critical thinking, appreciation of diversity, and accessing technology. **Critical thinking** is central to the analysis and assessment of the law; **diversity** influences how different nations/cultures view that law; and **technology** is an incredible tool to aid you in researching that law.

Required Text

All students must purchase Pierre-Marie Dupuy and Jorge E. Vinuales, *International Environmental Law* (2d ed.) Cambridge University Press. ISBN 9781108438117

The textbook is available at the UCF Bookstore and possibly off-campus bookstores as well as Amazon and textbook rental sites.

Course Requirements

The course will consist of a series of **Learning Modules** based upon **Chapters** in your textbook, which consist of reading each chapter, taking a **Quiz** on each chapter, and completing an **Assignment** (consisting of either a case brief, a research essay, or both) for each Module. Refer to the **Schedule** and **Calendar** for due dates for elements of the course. The entire course will open at once but each Module might have different closing dates. Thus, you can complete Modules are soon as you wish and complete those ahead of time if you know you will be out of town on business, etc. Going to competitions, regionals, away sports events, etc.is no excuse for special consideration. The entire course is open at the beginning of the term and you know what your schedule looks like for the term. Do not put off Modules until the deadline - it will spell disaster for you!

If you wait until the last minute and the clock runs out, there are technical issues, or your computer crashes, that is not my problem. If you have missed a quiz, there are no reopenings of quizzes. If you miss an essay assignment, a letter grade is deducted for each day you are late. Give yourself days of lead time to get technical problems addressed. In medical emergencies, documentation is required.

There is no extra credit built into the course.

Evaluation and Grading

The course is based upon completion of module quizzes and assignments. If it is found that you are submitting work done by someone else or plagiarizing, the minimum penalty will be zero on the quiz or assignment and persistent infractions will lead to academic disciplinary action. (see Academic Honesty section below).

To calculate your grade, each Module is worth between 25-30 points (5 points for each Quiz and 20 points for the Assignment) for a total of 180 points. In addition, you will receive 5 points for completing Module 0 Assignment (introducing yourself to me). The Tutorial and Student quiz is for your own benefit - it is not part of your total points or grade for the course. Thus, the maximum point count is 185. Take your total points and divide by 185. This will give you your course grade.

Letter Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79

D	60-69
F	59 or below

Assignment	Points
Module 0	5
Module 1	30
Module 2	25
Module 3	25
Module 4	25
Module 5	25
Module 6	25
Module 7	25
Total	185

Note: there are no + and - grades for the final course grade.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the **UCF Golden Rule** **(http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/)** for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone .

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all

persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Web Sites

There are hundreds of sites that provide resources to study international environmental law. The following are a good beginning for information, jobs, and resources. There will be specific web sites for you in each Module.

The "bible" is the *Oxford Yearbook of International International Law*

The *American Journal of International Law* from the American Society of International Law often has scholarly articles on environmental topics and you can find a careers guide by going to **www.asil.org/resources/careers-international-law (http://www.asil.org/resources/careers-international-law)**

There is also a nice visual guide by going to **https://www.wikihow.com/Be-An-International-Lawyer (https://www.wikihow.com/Be-An-International-Lawyer)**

There are other Career Guides, such as the one at Cornell (**www.human.cornell.edu (http://www.human.cornell.edu)**) or Harvard's *A Trail Guide to Careers in Environmental Law* (**https://hls.harvard.edu/content/uploads/2008/07/full-working-draft.pdf (https://hls.harvard.edu/content/uploads/2008/07/full-working-draft.pdf)**)

There are job listings and internships at the Center for International Environmental Law (**https://www.ciel.org (https://www.ciel.org)**) and at the UN (**https://unjobs.org/themes/environmental-law (https://unjobs.org/themes/environmental-law)**)

Institute for International Law and Justice (http://www.iilj.org/) at New York University

The Avalon Project (http://avalon.law.yale.edu) at Yale Law School

www.un.org/law/avl (this is the UN AudioVisual Library and we will be utilizing it throughout our course)

(see also the Journals attachment in Announcements as well as my spread sheet on U.S. law schools with a focus on international law - many will also have a course on environmental law)

Schedule

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Week/Date	Topic	Assignments	Due Dates
Week 1	Module 0: Introductory (opens 01/11/21)	• Complete Module 0 (Introduction)	01/15/21 11:59pm
Weeks 2-3	Module 1: Nature and Development of International Environmental Law (opens 01/11/21)	• Read Chapters 1, 2 • Take Quizzes 1 and 2 • Complete essay Assignment (Background)	01/31/21 11:59pm
Weeks 4-5	Module 2: Principles of International Environmental Law (opens 01/11/21)	• Read Chapter 3 • Take Quiz 3 • Complete essay Assignment (Principles)	02/14/21 11:59pm
Weeks 6-7	Module 3: Oceans and Waterways (opens 01/11/21)	• Read Chapter 4 • Take Quiz 4 • Complete essay Assignment (Living Resources)	02/28/21 11:59pm
Weeks 8-9	Module 4: Atmosphere (opens 01/11/21) (Week 10 is Spring Break - March 9-14)	• Read Chapter 5 • Take Quiz 5 • Complete essay Assignment (IPCC)	03/14/21 11:59pm
Weeks 11-12	Module 5: Biodiversity	• Read Chapter 6 • Take Quiz 6	03/28/21

	(opens 01/11/21)	• Complete essay Assignment (Forests)	11:59pm
Weeks 13-14	Module 6: Waste (opens 01/11/21)	• Read Chapter 7 • Take Quiz 7 • Complete essay Assignment (Basel	04/10/21 11:59pm
Weeks 15-16	Module 7: Human Rights (opens 01/11/21	Read Chapter 10 Take Quiz 8 (Chapter 10) Complete essay Assignment (Global Justice)	04/26/21
	There is no Final Exam		

Note: All dates are subject to change by Dr. Bledsoe. Routinely check the class **Announcements** for any changes or updates.