



Course Specifications

Course Title:	International Environmental Law
Course Code:	Law 462
Program:	Bachelor of Law
Department:	Law
College:	Law
Institution:	Prince Sultan University

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A. Course Identification

1. Credit hours: 2
2. Course type
a. University <input type="checkbox"/> College <input type="checkbox"/> Department <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/>
b. Required <input type="checkbox"/> Elective <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Level/year at which this course is offered: 4
4. Pre-requisites for this course (if any): LAW 255
5. Co-requisites for this course (if any): Not available

6. Mode of Instruction (mark all that apply)

No	Mode of Instruction	Contact Hours	Percentage
1	Traditional classroom	30	67
2	Blended	15	33
3	E-learning		
4	Distance learning		
5	Other		

7. Contact Hours (based on academic semester)

No	Activity	Contact Hours
1	Lecture	35
2	Laboratory/Studio	
3	Tutorial	10
4	Others (specify)	
	Total	45

B. Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

<p>1. Course Description</p> <p>The course of Environmental Law is an advanced course that provides the basis of international environmental law by identifying its sources, regulations, procedures and actors. The course examines both international and national protection of the environment and offers an overview of global environmental challenges and core legal principles.</p>
<p>2. Course Main Objective</p> <p>This course aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> to provide an understanding of the structure of the international legal system in the context of international environmental protection; to provide an understanding of the sources, principles, institutions and processes of international environmental law;



3. to explore the implementation and effectiveness of international environmental agreements in the context of Saudi Arabia, the GCC and the Middle East;
4. to develop an awareness of legal issues involved in the regulation of natural resources beyond a single state;
5. to develop students' capacity to undertake independent legal research using primary and secondary legal sources
6. to develop students' ability to serve clients (e.g. governments, international organizations, corporations, private clients) who seek assistance in this area of law.

3. Course Learning Outcomes

CLOs		Aligned PLOs
1	Knowledge and understanding	
1.1	Demonstrate knowledge of the structure of the international legal system in the context of international environmental protection.	1,2
1.2	Demonstrate understanding of the sources, principles, institutions and processes of international environmental law	1,2
1.3		
1...		
2	Skills	
2.1	Develop capacity to critically analyze the implementation and effectiveness of international environmental agreements in the context of Saudi Arabia, the GCC and the Middle East	PLO 4
2.3	Develop capacity to undertake independent legal research using primary and secondary legal sources	PLO 5,6
3	Values:	
3.1	Demonstrate the ethical standards and values behind the international environmental laws	PLO 7
3.2		
3.3		
3...		

C. Course Content

No	List of Topics	Contact Hours
1	<p>History and Development of International Environmental Law (IEL)</p> <p>Discussion: What is the structure of the international legal system? How does that system differ from the KSA legal system? What are the sources of international law generally, and international environmental law specifically? What are the aims of the UN? What is the role of the UN Charter?</p> <p>Read: UN Charter http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml</p>	4



	<p>Review: UN http://www.un.org/en/ UN International Law http://www.un.org/en/law/ International Court of Justice http://www.icj-cij.org/homepage/index.php</p>	
2	<p>Current Context of IEL: 1972-2021</p> <p>Discussion: What is international environmental law? How is it made? What are the sources of international environmental law? How has international environmental law changed since the 1900s, the 1960s and 1992? What caused change? What trends, if any, may be identified in the development of international environmental law? What particular challenges do the makers of international environmental law face?</p> <p>Read: 1972 Declaration of the UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Declaration) http://www.un-documents.net/unchedec.htm</p> <p>1992 Declaration of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Declaration) http://awsassets.wwfindia.org/downloads/rio_declaration_2.pdf</p> <p>KSA General Environmental Regulations</p> <p>Boyle, A. E. 'Some Reflections on the Relationship of Treaties and Soft Law' (1999) 48 <i>International and Comparative Law Quarterly</i> 901</p> <p>Chinkin, C. M. 'The Challenge of Soft Law: Development and Change in International Law' (1989) 38 <i>International and Comparative Law Quarterly</i> 850</p>	4
3	<p>Protection of Species</p> <p>Discussion: How, and to what extent, does international law protect individual species? What are the obstacles to protection? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the each of these above treaties? If we drafted these treaties today, what (if anything) would be different?</p> <p>Read: 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands www.ramsar.org 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species www.cites-org 1979 Convention on Migratory Species www.cms.int</p> <p>2018 UNEP Report: Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants</p>	4



	https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/18/doc/E-CoP18-069-02.pdf	
4	<p>Biodiversity and Biotechnology</p> <p>Discussion: How, and to what extent, does international law protect biodiversity? Identify any endangered species and consider the differences in protection afforded to it by the 1972 CITES (above) and the 1992 CBD. In what ways has this area of law developed since 1992? What challenges are faced by law-makers who seek to regulate biotechnology</p> <p>Read: 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity www.cbd.int 2000 Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety http://bch.cbd.int/protocol 2018 Nagoya Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/supplementary/</p>	4
5	<p>Food Security, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and Regulation of Plant Genetic Resources</p> <p>Discussion: Compare and contrast this treaty with the CBD. To what extent is the legal regime for animals (fauna) different from the legal regime for plants (flora)? Is this treaty sufficient to guarantee food security globally? Consider international regulation of GMOs? Is it sufficient? What other legal measures, if any, may be necessary? Do those measures vary according to region? Give examples.</p> <p>Read: FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/overview/texts-treaty/en/ FAO Biotechnology http://www.fao.org/biotechnology/en/</p>	4
6	<p>Water & Deserts</p> <p>Discussion: What are the principles of international water law? Do all principles have equal weight/authority? Is the principle of “equitable utilization” satisfactory? What are the current challenges? Identify any regional water agreement (using International Water Law website) and consider its content. Is it effective? How is effectiveness measured in international environmental law?</p>	4



	<p>Read:</p> <p>1997 UN Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/un-watercourses-convention (Adopted by UN General Assembly 21 May 1997, entered into force 17 August 2014)</p> <p>Argentina v Uruguay, ICJ, 2010, https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/135</p> <p>Review: https://www.internationalwaterlaw.org/</p>	
7	<p>Oceans</p> <p>Discussion: Consider the development of the law of the sea. What principles (if any) exist in this area of law? Do those principles provide for adequate protection of the marine environment? How is the ocean regulated? How is international law in this area enforced?</p> <p>Review: UN Law of the Sea: https://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm</p> <p>International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea: https://www.itlos.org/en/</p>	4
8	<p>Whaling & Fishing</p> <p>Discussion Consider the history of international whaling law. Does this law focus on food security or environmental protection? What amendments, if any, would you propose? Having read the ICJ case of <i>Japan v Australia</i>, consider what happens if/when a nation breaches international environmental law? What is the difference between accrual of liability and quantification of damage? Is it possible to quantify damage to a water source, an ocean or a species?</p> <p>Read:</p> <p>International Whaling Commission https://iwc.int/home</p> <p>International Court of Justice: Whaling in the Antarctic 2014 Japan v Australia: New Zealand intervening https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/148/judgments</p>	4
9	<p>Climate Change</p>	4



	<p>Discussion: Climate is high on the international political agenda. Why? Consider the UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreements. To what extent are they (collectively) adequate? What amendments, if any, would you propose? What challenges does KSA face in the area of climate change? Consider the relationship between deforestation and climate. Is international protection of forests adequate?</p> <p>Read:</p> <p>1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-convention/what-is-the-united-nations-framework-convention-on-climate-change</p> <p>1997 Kyoto Protocol https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol</p> <p>2015 Paris Agreement https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement</p> <p>United Nations Forum on Forests https://www.un.org/esa/forests/index.html</p>	
10	<p>Environment, Armed Conflict and Peace-Keeping</p> <p>Discuss: What protection (if any) exists international law for the environment during armed conflict? Does this vary for inter-state and intra-state conflicts? What weight is given to environmental protection during peace-keeping and state reconstructions? Give examples from UN Peace-Keeping Missions. What is the role of the UN Compensation Commission? Could it be expanded to other conflicts? What challenges would it face?</p> <p>Read:</p> <p>UNEP Protecting the Environment During Armed Conflict: An Inventory and Analysis of International Law http://postconflict.unep.ch/publicaions/int_law.pdf</p> <p>UN Peacekeeping https://peacekeeping.un.org/en</p> <p>UN Charter: Chapter 7 http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml</p> <p>United Nations Compensation Commission https://uncc.ch/</p>	4



1	<p>History and Development of International Environmental Law (IEL)</p> <p>Discussion: What is the structure of the international legal system? How does that system differ from the KSA legal system? What are the sources of international law generally, and international environmental law specifically? What are the aims of the UN? What is the role of the UN Charter?</p> <p>Read: UN Charter http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml</p> <p>Review: UN http://www.un.org/en/ UN International Law http://www.un.org/en/law/ International Court of Justice http://www.icj-cij.org/homepage/index.php</p>	4
11	Saudi Arabia decree on Environment protection General Environment issued by Royal Decree No. M / 43 82 2388 e / 7 / ARAMCO environment policy	5
Total		45

D. Teaching and Assessment

1. Alignment of Course Learning Outcomes with Teaching Strategies and Assessment Methods

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
1.0	Knowledge and understanding		
1.1	Demonstrate knowledge of the structure of the international legal system in the context of international environmental protection.	Lectures Group Discussion Case analysis	Exams Class discussion Assignment
1.2	Demonstrate understanding of the sources, principles, institutions and processes of international environmental law	Lectures Group Discussion Case analysis	Exams Class discussion Assignment
...			
2.0	Skills		
2.1	Develop capacity to critically analyze the implementation and effectiveness of international environmental agreements in the context of Saudi Arabia, the GCC and the Middle East	Tutorial Group Discussion Problem solving exercises	Exams Class discussion
2.2	Develop capacity to undertake independent legal research using primary and secondary legal sources	Tutorial Group Discussion Problem solving exercises	Assignments Presentation Class discussion



Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
2.3			
3.0	Values		
3.1	Demonstrate the ethical standards and values behind the international environmental laws	Tutorial Problem solving exercises	Assignments Presentation

2. Assessment Tasks for Students

#	Assessment task*	Week Due	Percentage of Total Assessment Score
1	Major 1	6	20
2	Major 2	10	20
3	Assignment & presentation	12	15
4	Class activities	1-12	5
6	Final exams	15	40
7			
8			

*Assessment task (i.e., written test, oral test, oral presentation, group project, essay, etc.)

E. Student Academic Counseling and Support

Arrangements for availability of faculty and teaching staff for individual student consultations and academic advice:

- 3 weekly office hours.
- Contact by email
- Using LMS (moodle) for communication and to make any necessary announcement

F. Learning Resources and Facilities

1. Learning Resources

Required Textbooks	<p>This course uses a variety of legal materials (e.g. international treaties, ICJ judgments, UN resolutions, journal articles) that are freely available online. Links will be provided.</p> <p>Sands, P. and J. Peel, <u>Principles of International Environmental Law</u> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 4th ed., 2018). ISBN: 9781108431125 https://www.cambridge.org/highereducation/books/principles-of-international-environmental-law/B32CA39427B24F1947BDC5F884CCADC0#overview</p>
Essential References Materials	Reference materials for each topic are listed above. These include treaties, declarations, United Nations General Assembly resolutions,



	and judgments of the International Court of Justice, and of the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea
Electronic Materials	<p>In addition to the above material (all of which is available electronically), the following websites are useful:</p> <p>EcoLex: Gateway to Environmental Law www.ecolex.org</p> <p>American Society for International Law: Guide to International Law http://www.asil.org/resource/treaty1.htm</p> <p>International Court of Justice https://www.icj-cij.org/en</p> <p>United Nations Treaty Collection http://untreaty.un.org/</p> <p>United Nations International Law www.un.org/law</p> <p>United Nations Environment Program http://www.unep.org/</p> <p>United Nations Division for Sustainable Development http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/index.html</p> <p>Climate Change and Environmental Policy https://archive-it.org/collections/1064</p>
Other Learning Materials	

2. Facilities Required

Item	Resources
Accommodation (Classrooms, laboratories, demonstration rooms/labs, etc.)	Classroom with up to 30 seating capacity
Technology Resources (AV, data show, Smart Board, software, etc.)	Smartboard (Overhead projector and Screen) Whiteboard LMS, Google Meet
Other Resources (Specify, e.g. if specific laboratory equipment is required, list requirements or attach a list)	

G. Course Quality Evaluation

Evaluation Areas/Issues	Evaluators	Evaluation Methods
Course exit survey	Students	Indirect
Online Course evaluation survey	Students	Indirect
Peer review	Faculty	Direct Co-signing of final exams



Evaluation Areas/Issues	Evaluators	Evaluation Methods
Class observation of teaching quality	Chairperson	Direct
Teaching and course learning outcomes achievement	Faculty	Direct Course assessment report
Action plan continuity (Closing the loop)	QA Committee	PLO assessment report

Evaluation areas (e.g., Effectiveness of teaching and assessment, Extent of achievement of course learning outcomes, Quality of learning resources, etc.)

Evaluators (Students, Faculty, Program Leaders, Peer Reviewer, Others (specify))

Assessment Methods (Direct, Indirect)

H. Specification Approval Data

Council / Committee	Curriculum Committee Department Council College Council
Reference No.	5 th session of the College Council 21/22
Date	21. February 2022

