

International Environmental Law: FOR 599
Fall 2013

Course Syllabus

Instructor:

G. Andrew Stainback
Classroom: T.P. Cooper Building 212
Office Hours: See below
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Course Description:

This course will explore basic aspects of international environmental law such as treaty making, international legal norms, international implementation, and policy analysis. These topics will be explored with specific reference to sustainable development, forest conservation, global climate change, biodiversity, and the intersection of international human rights law and the environment.

Course Objectives:

1. Give students a basic understanding of international law as it relates to environmental and natural resource management
2. Acquaint students with various perspectives and debates concerning international environmental law and policy.
3. Improve students' critical thinking and writing skills

Readings:

1. Bodansky, D. (2010). *The Art and Craft of International Environmental Law*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. ISBN: 978-0-674-06179-8
2. Guruswamy, L. D. (2011). *International Environmental Law in a Nutshell (4th ed.)*. St. Paul, Minnesota: Thomson Reuters. ISBN: 978-0-314-26817-4
3. Other readings will be provided to students.

Assignments and Grades:

Classes will primarily consist of short lectures, class discussions, pop quizzes, and other class exercises centered around course readings. Readings will be assigned in advance during class. There will be two exams given (Midterm and Final). Each exam will consist of short answer and essay questions. In addition students will be required to write a paper reviewing and discussing a topic related to international environmental law (~10 pages for undergraduate students and ~15 pages for graduate students). In addition, graduate students will have to give a class presentation on their paper. More information about tests and other assignments, including due dates will be given during class.

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Undergraduate students

Class discussion, class exercises, pop quizzes - 30%
Two tests - 20% each
Paper – 30%

Graduate students

Class discussion, class exercises, pop quizzes - 20%
Two tests - 20% each
Paper – 30%
Class presentation – 10%

Grading Scale: A=90%-100% B=80%-89% C=70%-79% D=60%-69% E=0%-59%

Class Attendance:

There will be valuable content in class discussions that cannot be totally captured on a test or other assignment. Therefore you are expected to attend all classes. You are responsible for all material presented, handouts, announcements, and changes in the syllabus whether you are in class or not. During most classes, in addition to class lecture and discussion, there will be a class exercise and/or quiz. Quizzes and class exercises can only be made-up after a valid excuse is provided in writing. Valid excuses include serious illness of you or an immediate family member, death in the family, official university trip, major religious holidays or other similar circumstances. Make-

up quizzes and class exercises will include the quiz/class exercise *and* an additional assignment. Make-up work must be done within two weeks of returning to class. A make-up exam will be allowed only after you present me with a valid excuse in writing before the exam or a valid written medical excuse explaining your illness or that of an immediate family member. I reserve the right to require additional verification before make-up work is allowed. Pop quizzes and class exercises can start at anytime during the class. If you come to class late and miss a quiz or class exercise you will receive a zero for that assignment.

Course Website:

There is a website associated with this course. On this website you will have access to the assigned readings outside of the texts, links to submit your assignments online, an online calendar to book appointments with me, and other resources. You can access this website through Blackboard or directly (<http://for599.weebly.com/>). The password for the site is ukstudent599.

Office Hours:

Interacting with faculty outside of class and getting personalized assistance is an important part of your education. Therefore you are strongly encouraged to meet with me outside of regular class time to discuss your coursework, get career or academic advice, or to discuss other topics of interest. My availability to meet with students is generally very flexible and accommodating. However, my schedule does change throughout the semester. To make meeting with me as easy as possible you will have access to an online calendar through the course website where you can schedule meeting times convenient for you.

Academic Honesty:

All class work is expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism will result in a course grade of E. If you have any doubts concerning whether your work conforms to these standards please ask me.

Classroom Etiquette

You are expected to behave in a professional and respectful manner during all class activities. This includes coming to class on time, refraining from the use of electronic devices during class, and not disrupting the class in any other manner. Discussion and debate are strongly encouraged to facilitate learning and development of critical thinking skills. However you are expected to be civil and respectful to your fellow students and me during all class discussions. Failure to adhere to any of the above requirements can result in dismissal from class or being dropped from the course.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities should contact the Disability Resource Center to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Website: <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter/contact.html>

Telephone: (859) 257-2754

Course Content:

- I. Environmental Issues in a Global Context
- II. Basic Approaches to Global Environmental Policy
- III. The Basic Structure of International Environmental Law
- IV. Biodiversity
- V. Climate Change
- VI. Deforestation and International Forest Governance
- VII. Desertification
- VIII. Trade and the Environment
- IX. Evaluating International Environmental Law

Both the content and structure of the class may be modified as the need arises.