



UNSW Course Outline

LAWS8319 International Environmental Law - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : LAWS8319

Year : 2024

Term : Term 2

Teaching Period : T2B

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Law and Justice

Academic Unit : School of Global and Public Law

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course will provide students with an overview of the development of international environmental law throughout the twentieth century as well as the major theoretical and policy debates that surround it. Attention will primarily be devoted to the international legal responses

to global and regional environmental and resource management issues. Basic principles will be discussed prior to taking a sectoral approach in looking at the application of international environmental law in certain specific issue areas. The course does not have an Australian focus. Rather, focus will be international legal and policy responses adopted to deal with environmental problems in an international and transboundary context.

Main Topics:

- International Environmental Governance
- States and non-state actors in international environmental law
- Implementation, Enforcement and Dispute Settlement
- International watercourses
- The marine environment
- Nature protection and biological diversity
- Climate change and atmospheric pollution
- Hazardous Substances and Waste
- The Polar Regions
- Liability for Environmental Damage

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Engage in advanced, integrated and critical analysis of international environmental law, including key areas of international environmental law which are currently the subject of debate and reform, from a range of perspectives (PLOs 1a & 1b)
CLO2 : Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of, and the ability to critically analyse, evaluate and apply, complex key legal concepts, doctrines and principles of international environmental law (PLOs 1a, 1b & 4)
CLO3 : Demonstrate advanced knowledge of, and the ability to critically analyse and apply, the texts of international environmental law sea including treaties, UN Documents, case law and academic commentary (PLOs 1a, 1b & 4)
CLO4 : Demonstrate an advanced and contextual knowledge of international environmental law and the relevant international legal institutions through concise written and oral arguments supported by doctrinal disciplinary knowledge and interdisciplinary policy perspectives and adequate reference to a range of legal and interdisciplinary research sources using appropriate legal citation (PLOs 2a & 2b)
CLO5 : Demonstrate effective independent legal research and written communication skills by articulating complex legal concepts and analysis clearly and persuasively in self-directed research essays on specialized topics relating to international environmental law (PLOs 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b & 4)
CLO6 : Demonstrate the ability to think critically and to justify ideas in a reasoned manner and communicate effectively, in a scholarly, reflective and respectful manner, both in speaking and in writing, to diverse audiences (PLOs 3a, 3b & 4).

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Engage in advanced, integrated and critical analysis of international environmental law, including key areas of international environmental law which are currently the subject of debate and reform, from a range of perspectives (PLOs 1a & 1b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Participation • Advocacy Assessment • Research Assignment
CLO2 : Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of, and the ability to critically analyse, evaluate and apply, complex key legal concepts, doctrines and principles of international environmental law (PLOs 1a, 1b & 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Participation • Advocacy Assessment • Research Assignment
CLO3 : Demonstrate advanced knowledge of, and the ability to critically analyse and apply, the texts of international environmental law sea including treaties, UN Documents, case law and academic commentary (PLOs 1a, 1b & 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Participation • Advocacy Assessment • Research Assignment
CLO4 : Demonstrate an advanced and contextual knowledge of international environmental law and the relevant international legal institutions through concise written and oral arguments supported by doctrinal disciplinary knowledge and interdisciplinary policy perspectives and adequate reference to a range of legal and interdisciplinary research sources using appropriate legal citation (PLOs 2a & 2b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Participation • Advocacy Assessment • Research Assignment
CLO5 : Demonstrate effective independent legal research and written communication skills by articulating complex legal concepts and analysis clearly and persuasively in self-directed research essays on specialized topics relating to international environmental law (PLOs 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b & 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Assignment
CLO6 : Demonstrate the ability to think critically and to justify ideas in a reasoned manner and communicate effectively, in a scholarly, reflective and respectful manner, both in speaking and in writing, to diverse audiences (PLOs 3a, 3b & 4).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Participation • Advocacy Assessment

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Class Participation Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable
Advocacy Assessment Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Start Date: 10/06/2024 12:00 AM Due Date: 30/06/2024 11:59 PM Post Date: 15/07/2024 11:30 PM
Research Assignment Assessment Format: Individual	60%	Start Date: 12/07/2024 12:01 AM Due Date: 09/08/2024 11:59 PM Post Date: 30/08/2024 12:00 AM

Assessment Details

Class Participation

Assessment Overview

This assessment requires you to prepare for and actively engage in class-based and online activities.

Course Learning Outcomes

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- CLO2 : Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of, and the ability to critically analyse, evaluate and apply, complex key legal concepts, doctrines and principles of international environmental law (PLOs 1a, 1b & 4)
- CLO3 : Demonstrate advanced knowledge of, and the ability to critically analyse and apply, the texts of international environmental law sea including treaties, UN Documents, case law and academic commentary (PLOs 1a, 1b & 4)
- CLO4 : Demonstrate an advanced and contextual knowledge of international environmental law and the relevant international legal institutions through concise written and oral arguments supported by doctrinal disciplinary knowledge and interdisciplinary policy perspectives and adequate reference to a range of legal and interdisciplinary research sources using appropriate legal citation (PLOs 2a & 2b)
- CLO6 : Demonstrate the ability to think critically and to justify ideas in a reasoned manner and communicate effectively, in a scholarly, reflective and respectful manner, both in speaking and in writing, to diverse audiences (PLOs 3a, 3b & 4).

Detailed Assessment Description

Feedback includes formative feedback and peer feedback in class.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Advocacy Assessment

Assessment Overview

This assessment requires you to write a short advocacy submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Engage in advanced, integrated and critical analysis of international environmental law, including key areas of international environmental law which are currently the subject of debate and reform, from a range of perspectives (PLOs 1a & 1b)
- CLO2 : Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of, and the ability to critically analyse, evaluate and apply, complex key legal concepts, doctrines and principles of international environmental law (PLOs 1a, 1b & 4)
- CLO3 : Demonstrate advanced knowledge of, and the ability to critically analyse and apply, the texts of international environmental law sea including treaties, UN Documents, case law and academic commentary (PLOs 1a, 1b & 4)
- CLO4 : Demonstrate an advanced and contextual knowledge of international environmental law and the relevant international legal institutions through concise written and oral arguments supported by doctrinal disciplinary knowledge and interdisciplinary policy perspectives and adequate reference to a range of legal and interdisciplinary research sources using appropriate legal citation (PLOs 2a & 2b)
- CLO6 : Demonstrate the ability to think critically and to justify ideas in a reasoned manner and communicate effectively, in a scholarly, reflective and respectful manner, both in speaking and in writing, to diverse audiences (PLOs 3a, 3b & 4).

Detailed Assessment Description

The Advocacy Assessment evaluates students' ability to effectively advocate for a specific position or viewpoint on an international environmental law issue. Students will be required to prepare and submit a short written document advocating for or against a particular policy, legal framework, or action related to international environmental law. Students will choose a specific issue or aspect within the field of international environmental law, including, but not limited to, topics such as principles of environmental governance, climate change mitigation strategies, biodiversity conservation efforts, ocean pollution prevention, etc.

Example topics:

1. States' pursuit of seabed mining poses a grave threat to the marine environment and must be avoided at all costs.
2. Seabed mining, if conducted responsibly with stringent environmental regulations, could

provide valuable resources for States and contribute to their economic growth without causing significant harm to the marine environment.

Assessment Length

1500 words including references

Submission notes

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Research Assignment

Assessment Overview

This assessment requires you to write a research assignment.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Engage in advanced, integrated and critical analysis of international environmental law, including key areas of international environmental law which are currently the subject of debate and reform, from a range of perspectives (PLOs 1a & 1b)
- CLO2 : Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of, and the ability to critically analyse, evaluate and apply, complex key legal concepts, doctrines and principles of international environmental law (PLOs 1a, 1b & 4)
- CLO3 : Demonstrate advanced knowledge of, and the ability to critically analyse and apply, the texts of international environmental law sea including treaties, UN Documents, case law and academic commentary (PLOs 1a, 1b & 4)
- CLO4 : Demonstrate an advanced and contextual knowledge of international environmental law and the relevant international legal institutions through concise written and oral arguments supported by doctrinal disciplinary knowledge and interdisciplinary policy perspectives and adequate reference to a range of legal and interdisciplinary research sources using appropriate legal citation (PLOs 2a & 2b)
- CLO5 : Demonstrate effective independent legal research and written communication skills by articulating complex legal concepts and analysis clearly and persuasively in self-directed research essays on specialized topics relating to international environmental law (PLOs 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b & 4)

Detailed Assessment Description

The Research Essay is the culminating assessment task for the course in International Environmental Law. It provides students with an opportunity to delve deeply into a specific topic within the field, conduct original research, and present their findings in a comprehensive and scholarly manner.

Task:

1. Topic Selection: Students will choose a specific topic or issue within international environmental law for their research essay. The topic should be relevant to the course content and align with their academic interests.
2. Literature Review: Students will conduct a thorough literature review to familiarize themselves with existing scholarship, legal frameworks, and policy documents related to their chosen topic. They will critically analyze and synthesize relevant literature to identify gaps, debates, and emerging trends in the field.
3. Argument Development: Based on their literature review, students will develop a coherent argument or thesis statement that addresses their research question. They will support their argument with evidence from the literature and their own analysis, demonstrating critical thinking and analytical skills.
4. Essay Structure: The research essay should follow a clear and logical structure, including an introduction, literature review, findings/results, discussion, conclusion, and references. Students should ensure that their essay is well-organized, coherent, and properly formatted.
5. Writing Style and Presentation: Students should adhere to academic writing conventions, including clear and concise writing, proper referencing (using the AGLC4 style guide), and accurate citation of sources. They should pay attention to grammar, spelling, and punctuation to ensure clarity and readability.

Assessment Length

5000 words including references

Submission notes

The research essay is submitted electronically through Turnitin.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

General Assessment Information

In the International Environmental Law course, students will delve into the intricate web of legal frameworks and principles governing global environmental protection and sustainability.

Through a comprehensive exploration of treaties, conventions, and customary international law, students will develop a nuanced understanding of the complex interplay between environmental conservation and socio-economic development on a global scale. Assessment will measure students' grasp of key legal concepts and principles and their ability to critically analyze and apply them to real-world environmental challenges. Through written assignments and active class participation, students will hone their advocacy skills and deepen their appreciation for the role of law in addressing pressing environmental issues facing our planet today.

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 2 : 8 July - 14 July	Lecture	Monday 8 July • International Environmental Governance • States and non-state actors in international environmental law Wednesday 10 July • Implementation, Enforcement and Dispute Settlement
Week 3 : 15 July - 21 July	Lecture	Monday 15 July • International watercourses Wednesday 17 July • The marine environment
Week 4 : 22 July - 28 July	Lecture	Monday 22 July • Nature protection and biological diversity Wednesday 24 July • Climate change and atmospheric pollution
Week 5 : 29 July - 4 August	Lecture	Monday 29 July • Hazardous Substances and Waste • The Polar Regions Wednesday 31 July • Liability for Environmental Damage

Attendance Requirements

Please see information about attendance requirements in **Law & Justice Assessment Procedure and Student Information** located in the Other Useful Information tab in the Academic Information field.

Please be advised there will be no classes on public holidays. If your class falls on a public holiday, alternative arrangements will be made by the course convenor to make up the missed class.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Prescribed reading and other material will be included in the Moodle. They will include written material (articles, chapters, and extracts from books, cases, and legislation), recorded lectures, video presentations, etc.

Recommended Resources

Recommended reading and other material will be included in the Moodle.

Additional Costs

There are no additional costs for the course.

Course Evaluation and Development

Students will be encouraged to provide formal feedback about the course at the completion of the course. This feedback will then be used to inform any changes to the design of and materials in the course in future offerings of the course.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Lecturer	Abdullah-Al Arif				via email	Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.

- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the [UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website](#).

UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy

It is essential that all students undertaking this course read and abide by the [UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information](#). This document includes information on Class Attendance, Late Work, Word Limits, Marking, Special Consideration, Workload, and Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism. More information can also be found at [Assessment & Exam Information](#).

Information regarding Course Outlines are subject to change and students are advised to check updates. If there is a discrepancy between the information posted here and the handbook or the UNSW Law & Justice website, please contact [Student Services via The Nucleus Hub](#) for advice. UNSW Law & Justice reserves the right to discontinue or vary such courses or staff allocations at any time. If your course is not here, please visit [Handbook](#) for information.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Student Code](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Student Code, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Before submitting assessment items all students must read and abide by the [UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information](#).

Special consideration

Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable. To apply, and for further information, see Special Consideration on the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

Feedback

UNSW Law & Justice appreciates the need for students to have feedback on their progress prior to the last date for withdrawal without failure. All courses will therefore provide feedback to students prior to this date, as well as throughout the course. However, students should note that feedback does not take the form only of formal grades and written comments on written assessments. Rather, formative feedback, which helps students to self-assess, to identify misunderstandings, and to identify areas requiring further work, will occur during class and possibly online. For example, where a teacher asks the class a question, all students should think about how they might answer. Even though not all students will necessarily be able to respond orally, everyone can reflect on their tentative answer in light of the teacher's response and subsequent class discussion. If you are struggling to understand what is being asked in class, or if your tentative answers prove incorrect and subsequent discussion does not clear things up, then you should continue to ask questions (of yourself, your peers or your teacher). Similarly, you can get a sense of your ability in a course through peer feedback during group work, your teacher's responses to your in-class contributions, and your own response to in-class problems and examples (whether or not you are called on to relay your answer to the class) and also your online activities and responses by others to those activities. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the specific feedback used in this course.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

- Student support: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Equitable Learning Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au>

Course improvement

Student feedback is very important to continual course improvement. This is demonstrated within the Faculty of Law & Justice by the implementation of the UNSW online student survey myExperience, which allows students to evaluate their learning experiences in an anonymous

way. myExperience survey reports are produced from each survey. They are released to staff after all student assessment results are finalised and released to students. Course convenors will use the feedback to make ongoing improvements to the course. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the actions taken in response to evaluation feedback in Student Survey.

School Contact Information

Please contact [Nucleus Student Hub](#) for all enquiries. The Nucleus acts as a central communications hub for UNSW and will distribute your enquiry to the best person to respond.