



Introduction to Law & Politics of Sustainability

Educational subject description sheet

Basic information

Field of study Joint Bachelor in Sustainability	Education cycle 2025/26	
Speciality -	Subject code UJ.WPAJBSS.820.16347.25	
Organizational unit Faculty of Law and Administration	Lecture languages english	
Study level first cycle (joint degree programme)	Subject related to scientific research Yes	
Study form full-time degree programme	Disciplines Legal science, Political science and administration,	
Education profile General academic	ISCED classification 0488 Interdisciplinary programmes involving broad field 04	
Mandatory obligatory	USOS code	
Subject coordinator	Piotr Szwedo	
Lecturer	Piotr Szwedo, Yann Kerbrat	
Period Semester 2	Examination exam	Number of ECTS points 4.0
	Activities and hours Lecture with elements of a discussion class: 40	

Goals

C1	The aims of the course are to give students a comprehensive overview of what the study track in law and politics of sustainability contains, how it is to study in Kraków, what it requires of a student to successfully complete the study track, what are the career possibilities after completing the study track, and how law and politics can help achieve a sustainable future. The course covers fundamental legal notions, linking them to real-life cases.
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Subject's learning outcomes

Code	Outcomes in terms of	Effects	Examination methods
Knowledge - Student knows and understands:			
W1	the fundamental legal concepts and international instruments taught in the course and can explain them referring to their axiological background.	JBS_K1_W02, JBS_K1_W05, JBS_K1_W06	written exam
W2	the content, structure, requirements, and career opportunities of the study track in law and politics of sustainability.	JBS_K1_W06	written exam
W3	why law and politics are important for a sustainable future.	JBS_K1_W03, JBS_K1_W06, JBS_K1_W07	written exam
Skills - Student can:			
U1	relevant legal sources and provide a basic case summary.	JBS_K1_U02, JBS_K1_U03	written exam, essay
Social competences - Student is ready for:			
K1	to evaluate their own interests and competencies required to proceed with the law and politics study track	JBS_K1_K04	written exam, essay

Calculation of ECTS points

Activity form	Activity hours*
Lecture with elements of a discussion class	40
preparation for classes	40
preparation for the exam	30
Student workload	Hours 110
	ECTS 4.0

* hour means 45 minutes

Study content

No.	Course content	Subject's learning outcomes
1.	Introduction, notion of source of the source of law, distinction between formal sources and material sources	W1, W2, W3, U1, K1
2.	Hard law and soft law	W1, W2, W3, U1, K1
3.	Sources of international law of sustainability (treaties, customs, unilateral acts, acts of international organisations)	W1, W2, W3, U1, K1
4.	Sources of EU law of sustainability	W1, W2, W3, U1, K1
5.	Sources of domestic law of sustainability (constitutions, laws, regulations...)	W1, W2, W3, U1, K1

No.	Course content	Subject's learning outcomes
6.	Polluter-pays principle - liability for environmental harm from Trail Smelter to international trade and investment.	W1, W2, W3, U1, K1
7.	Prevention and precaution- Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros case as an illustration of international and European principles.	W1, W2, W3, U1, K1
8.	Reciprocity and proportionality. Safeguards, countermeasures, and other examples. Why is proportionality crucial for sustainability?	W1, W2, W3, U1, K1
9.	Principles related to humanitarianism and development. Responsibility to protect, responsibility to contribute to development of the host state, special rules for developing and least developed countries.	W1, W2, W3, U1, K1
10.	Summary and discussion based on a recent case study.	W1, W2, W3, U1, K1

Course advanced

Teaching methods :

text analysis, conversation lecture, discussion

Activities	Examination methods	Credit conditions
Lecture with elements of a discussion class	written exam, essay	Written exam (graded): students need more than 45% of the total points to pass the exam and the course. Reflective essay (non-graded): additionally, students need to submit a non-graded reflective essay.

Entry requirements

None

Literature

Obligatory

1. Lecture notes

Effects

Code	Content
JBS_K1_K04	The graduate can critically assess and verbalize own competencies and skills related to different aspects of sustainability as well as their need for development.
JBS_K1_U02	The graduate can present and report knowledge, methodologies, ideas, problems and solutions, clearly and comprehensively, in different forms destined for different audiences - including discussions and debates which require defending a substantiated opinion, as well as conversations in a foreign language at the CEFR B2 level.
JBS_K1_U03	The graduate can apply adequate methods and tools, including selected IT tools, to solve problems related to data collection, analysis, and management in the context of sustainability.
JBS_K1_W02	The graduate can explain the axiological background of sustainability and summarize key stages of development of the concept.
JBS_K1_W03	The graduate can give examples of sustainability-related dilemmas and hypothesize on the optimal course of action.
JBS_K1_W05	The graduate can identify essential international instruments and institutions related to sustainability and explain their potential role in resolution of a given problem.
JBS_K1_W06	The graduate can describe interconnections between various aspects of sustainability and identify their significance in the context of natural and social sciences, with a special focus on disciplines included in the selected specialisation track (law and politics; chemistry and physics; chemistry and biology; economics and geography; economics, management and engineering; humanities).
JBS_K1_W07	The graduate can apply the theory and methodology of disciplines included in the selected specialisation track to sustainability-related problems, taking into consideration practical limitations such as protection of intellectual property.