

Legal Aspects of Environmental Governance and Justice

Educational subject description sheet

Basic information

<p>Field of study Joint Bachelor in Sustainability</p> <p>Speciality Social Sciences & Humanities</p> <p>Organizational unit Faculty of Law and Administration</p> <p>Study level first cycle (joint degree programme)</p> <p>Study form full-time degree programme</p> <p>Education profile General academic</p> <p>Mandatory elective</p>		<p>Education cycle 2025/26</p> <p>Realization year 2027/28</p> <p>Subject code UJ.WPAJBSSSHS.810.16601.25</p> <p>Lecture languages english</p> <p>Subject related to scientific research Yes</p> <p>Disciplines Law</p> <p>ISCED classification 0421 Law</p> <p>USOS code</p>	
Subject coordinator	Piotr Szwedo		
Lecturer	Jean-Charles Rotoullié		
Period Semester 5	Examination exam	Number of ECTS points 2.0	Activities and hours Discussion class: 15

Goals

C1	The aim of the course is to introduce students to environmental law and the issues at stake. The goal is to give students the tools they need to better understand how environmental issues are and can be governed through law. The aim is to encourage students to reflect on the proposed themes and form their own opinions.
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Subject's learning outcomes

Code	Outcomes in terms of	Effects	Examination methods
Knowledge - Student knows and understands:			
W1	the basics of environmental Law (institutional and substantive aspects) through the 5 themes studied. They are able to refer to them in the context of contemporary sustainability challenges.	JBS_K1_W01, JBS_K1_W02, JBS_K1_W03, JBS_K1_W05, JBS_K1_W07	oral exam
Skills - Student can:			
U1	develop and present a clear, concise and logical solution to a problem in the field of environmental governance and justice, referring to relevant legal aspects.	JBS_K1_U02, JBS_K1_U03	oral exam
U2	think autonomously and critically about environmental issues and legal approaches to solving them.	JBS_K1_U01	oral exam
Social competences - Student is ready for:			
K1	to express themselves in public, in front of their peers, defending their point of view and arguing for it.	JBS_K1_K01, JBS_K1_K02, JBS_K1_K03, JBS_K1_K04	oral exam

Calculation of ECTS points

Activity form	Activity hours*
Discussion class	15
preparation for classes	30
preparation for the exam	15
Student workload	Hours 60
	ECTS 2.0

* hour means 45 minutes

Study content

No.	Course content	Subject's learning outcomes
1.	<p>Topic 1 - Environmental Governance (3 hours)</p> <p>This course will focus on environmental governance. The various institutions involved in environmental protection will be analysed. Students will learn how international (UN) and European (EU and ECHR) institutions dedicated to the environment operate, but they will also understand the limits of their action (sovereignty of States, etc.). Less traditional bodies (G, COP for example) will also be addressed.</p>	W1, U1, U2, K1

No.	Course content	Subject's learning outcomes
2.	<p>Topic 2 - Environmental Principles (3 hours)</p> <p>This course will focus on environmental principles. The latter are a specific feature of environmental law. The aim is to study the most important (sustainable development, prevention, precaution, polluter pays, public participation and information) and to understand their implementation and limits. Principles currently under development will also be addressed (ecologic transition or the principle of non-regression, for example).</p>	W1, U1, U2, K1
3.	<p>Topic 3 - Legal means to protect the environment (4 hours)</p> <p>The aim is to understand the diversity of legal means used to protect the environment at global, European and national level. Initially, students will analyse international (treaties, custom, soft law, etc.), European (EU, European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms) and national (the inclusion of the environment in the Constitution) sources. They will then look at the legal tools used by public authorities to protect the environment: contracts (private or public), regulations, property rights, criminal sanctions, etc.</p>	W1, U1, U2, K1
4.	<p>Topic 4 - Environment and Trade (2 hours)</p> <p>The course will focus on the relationship between trade and the environment. The aim is to gain a better understanding of the relationship between the legal rules safeguarding economic freedoms (WTO, European economic freedoms) and the imperative of environmental protection.</p>	W1, U1, U2, K1
5.	<p>Topic 5 - Environment and Justice (3 hours)</p> <p>The course will focus on the role of the judge in environmental protection. In recent years, the judge has become a central player. Civil society is turning to the courts to force governments to respect their environmental commitments. Large corporations are also confronted with this phenomenon of environmental justice. Lawsuits seeking to establish the responsibility of these companies for global warming are multiplying.</p>	W1, U1, U2, K1

Course advanced

Teaching methods :

text analysis, conversation lecture, discussion, case study

Activities	Examination methods	Credit conditions
Discussion class	oral exam	Oral participation mark (graded, 30%) + Oral exam (graded, 70%) = Global mark (graded, 50% for pass).

Entry requirements

None

Literature

Obligatory

1. P.-M. Dupuy, J. E. Viñuales, *International Environmental Law*, CUP, 2nd ed., 2018 L. Rajamani, *Innovation and Experimentation in the International Climate Change Regime*, Brill/Nijhoff, 2020 J. Brunnée, *Procedure and Substance in International Environmental Law*, Brill/Nijhoff, 2020

Effects

Code	Content
JBS_K1_K01	The graduate can encourage sustainability-driven practices in the workplace and appraise sustainability of own values, perceptions, roles, and actions, with a special focus on environmental wellbeing.
JBS_K1_K02	The graduate can demonstrate considerable entrepreneurial initiative, autonomy, and readiness to act in complex and changing environments, especially in the context of supporting, undertaking, and co-organising activities beneficial for a sustainable society.
JBS_K1_K03	The graduate can consider different visions of the future and develop own evidence-based opinions in reference to the balance of values linked to economic development, social welfare, and environmental protection.
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_U01	The graduate can critically analyse academic literature, formulate research questions and conduct research under supervision.
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_W01	The graduate can describe the concept of sustainability and recognize the differences in relevant definitions, models and approaches.
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_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.