



JAGIELLONIAN
UNIVERSITY
IN KRAKÓW

International Investment Law in the Context of Sustainability

Educational subject description sheet

Basic information

Field of study Joint Bachelor in Sustainability		Education cycle 2025/26	
Speciality Law & Politics of Sustainability		Subject code UJ.WPAJBSLPSS.880.14501.25	
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, Economics and finance	
Education profile General academic		ISCED classification 0488 Interdisciplinary programmes involving broad field 04	
Mandatory obligatory		USOS code	
Subject coordinator	Piotr Szwedo		
Lecturer	Piotr Szwedo		
Period Semester 4	Examination exam	Number of ECTS points 4.0	
	Activities and hours Discussion class: 30		

Goals

C1	The aim is to interactively familiarise students with international investment law and its impact on the economy, society and the environment. Students will learn to correctly analyse jurisprudence and present their own opinion.
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Subject's learning outcomes

Code	Outcomes in terms of	Effects	Examination methods
Knowledge - Student knows and understands:			
W1	the key functions, institutions, development trends, values, and norms of international investment law, and is able to refer to them in the context of contemporary sustainability challenges.	JBS_K1_W03, JBS_K1_W06	written exam
W2	the most important processes related to the creation and application of international investment law, in particular in the context of dispute resolution.	JBS_K1_W05, JBS_K1_W06	written exam
Skills - Student can:			
U1	develop and present a clear, concise, and logical solution to a problem in the field of international investment law, referring to the relevant interdisciplinary aspects of sustainability and using the correct English-language terminology.	JBS_K1_U01, JBS_K1_U02	written exam
Social competences - Student is ready for:			
K1	to critically approach their knowledge and its sources, while noticing the importance of interdisciplinary knowledge and expert opinions for solving problems linked to international investment law and sustainability.	JBS_K1_K04, JBS_K1_K05	written exam
K2	to take a position in relation to the development trends of international investment law and logically justify it.	JBS_K1_K03	written exam

Calculation of ECTS points

Activity form	Activity hours*
Discussion class	30
preparation for the exam	35
preparation for classes	20
problem analysis	30
Student workload	Hours 115
	ECTS 4.0

* hour means 45 minutes

Study content

No.	Course content	Subject's learning outcomes
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No.	Course content	Subject's learning outcomes
1.	What are investments and which are subject to international investment law? On what basis are investment disputes resolved? The criteria established in the Salini case, their subsequent development and criticism.	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2
2.	The history of international investment law and its points of contact with international trade. Historical and political significance of expropriation and nationalisation and their consequences for international law. The most important international disputes of the 20th century. Establishment of the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2
3.	What legal subjects are we dealing with in international investment law? Responsibility of states, international organisations, natural and legal persons. The concept of de facto organs and the problem of establishing actual control. Determination of nationality	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2
4.	Sources of international investment law, with a particular emphasis on the specificity of bilateral investment treaties (BITs). The problem of fragmentation in the context of international investment law and its place in the system of public international law. The impact of other fields of law on international investment law.	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2
5.	The most important principles and clauses on the example of investment disputes. The principle of non-discrimination, most-favoured-nation treatment, national treatment, fair and equitable treatment, prohibition of expropriation, flow of capital, so-called umbrella clause and arbitration clauses.	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2
6.	International investment law and the problems of developing countries. The investor's obligation to contribute to the development of the host state, the relationship between investment development and the so-called tied aid, the issue of "dirty development" and differentiation of obligations.	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2
7.	International investment law and environmental protection. Examples of investment disputes concerning environmental damage. Environmental risk assessment as an element of investment planning. The impact of investments on resource management on the example of water investments	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2
8.	How can international investment law contribute to a better implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals? How can geopolitical, social and environmental changes affect its development? Conclusions from the events of the 21st century.	W1, W2, U1, K1, K2

Course advanced

Teaching methods :

text analysis, brainstorming, conversation lecture, lecture with multimedia presentation, discussion, case study, gamification

Activities	Examination methods	Credit conditions
Discussion class	written exam	Active participation (non-graded), written exam based on open questions (graded)

Entry requirements

None

Literature

Obligatory

1. Case law, video materials and documents distributed in class. UN General Assembly, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/57b6e3e44.html>

Effects

Code	Content
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_K05	The graduate can defend the importance of scientific data and methods as a basis for decision-making.
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_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).