

International and European Environmental and Energy Law
Course syllabus
2025-2026

COURSE CONTENTS:

1. Introduction
2. International Environmental Law: origins and evolution
3. European Environmental Law: origins and evolution
4. The emergence and development of Energy Law in the contexts of International and European Law
5. Principles of International and European Environmental Law
 - 5.1. Prevention
 - 5.2. Precaution
 - 5.3. Polluter pays
 - 5.4. High level of protection
 - 5.5. Others
6. Some concepts of International and European Environmental Law
 - 6.1. Sustainable development
 - 6.2. Common but differentiated responsibilities
 - 6.3. Intergenerational solidarity
 - 6.4. Market-based mechanisms
 - 6.5. Others
7. Themes of International Environmental Law: a selection
 - 7.1. Transboundary pollution
 - 7.2. Ozone layer
 - 7.3. Climate change
 - 7.4. Marine environment
 - 7.5. Biodiversity
 - 7.6. Natural disasters
 - 7.7. International trade and environmental protection
 - 7.8. Access to information, participation and environmental justice
 - 7.9. Human rights and environmental protection (procedural and substantive dimensions)
 - 7.10. Others
8. European Environmental Law regimes: a selection
 - 8.1. Environmental impact assessment
 - 8.2. Integrated pollution prevention and control
 - 8.3. Environmental liability
 - 8.4. Climate change
 - 8.5. Others
9. International and European Energy Law topics: a selection
 - 9.1. Investment protection and the European Energy Charter
 - 9.2. Fossil fuels: extraction, transport and exploitation

- 9.3. Renewable energy and energy efficiency
- 9.4. Nuclear energy
- 9.5. Others
- 10. Environmental and climate litigation
 - 10.1. International courts and tribunals
 - 10.2. National courts

TEACHING METHODS:

Teaching methods comprise:

- Interactive lectures, outlining the main content of the course (students are expected to prepare the required readings and be ready to respond to questions and engage in dialogue);
- Brief individual presentations (by way of introduction to new topics, each student will, throughout the course, briefly inform the class, in a 5-10 minute oral presentation, about a selected topic);
- Discussions in class (students are expected to participate actively in the discussions).

EVALUATION:

Students are evaluated on the basis of three coursework components:

- Oral participation: participation in class and group discussions (25% of the final grade) + individual presentation (25% of the final grade);
- Final written exam (50% of the final grade).