

JUCN21, Environmental Law in an International Context, 15 credits

Environmental Law in an International Context, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by on 2012-01-13 and was last revised on 2016-03-10 by Faculty of Law Board of education at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The revised syllabus applies from 2016-03-29, spring semester 2016.

General Information

The course Environmental Law in an International Context is an optional course within the programme leading to a Swedish Law degree. The course is also open to international students participating in exchange programmes with the Faculty of Law.

Language of instruction: English

Lectures and course material are in English. The course is scheduled to be requiring 10 weeks of full-time studies.

Main field of studies

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Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

To pass the exam, the students shall show

- good knowledge of the fundamentals in international and EU Environmental law
- in-depth knowledge of International and EU Environmental law on atmospheric pollution and climate change, conservation of biodiversity, protection of fresh water and the marine environment, and hazardous chemicals and waste
- good understanding of the interaction between International Environmental Law, EU Environmental Law and National Environmental Law

- good understanding of the area's theoretical and methodological grounds
- knowledge of contemporary research in the area

Competence and skills

To pass the exam, the students shall show good ability to

- identify legal problems within the field of Environmental Law, apply the relevant international, EU and national body of legal materials, analyze the problems and systematize arguments to solve them, in particular in an international and European perspective
- present the results both in an oral and written manner

Judgement and approach

To pass the exam, the students shall show

- an understanding of the interactions of states, international organizations and treaty bodies, and critically discuss their role and impact on development of Environmental Law
- the ability to conduct independent investigation and take full responsibility for the development of their own knowledge in an objective, but critical manner

Course content

This course surveys environmental law in the perspective of interaction between different regulatory levels. With a starting point in the fundamentals of International, EU and national (with the student's national law as the example) environmental law, internationally important environmental issues are considered in a thematic manner where the issues are studied from an International, EU and National Law perspective. This thematic approach is especially elaborated with regard to atmospheric pollution and climate change, conservation of biodiversity, protection of fresh water and the marine environment, and hazardous chemicals and waste. A range of other contemporary international environmental issues may also be explored during the course.

The course will explore a number of cross-cutting themes with regard to the chosen issues.

- The relationship between environmental law and general principles of law, within the international, EU and national level as well as between the levels;
- State jurisdiction and responsibility;
- The range of approaches to, and methods, for regulation of activities both within and beyond areas under national jurisdiction;
- The challenge of regulating in the face of scientific uncertainty;
- The role of 'soft' and 'hard' law in addressing international environmental problems;
- The contribution of international tribunals to the developments of international environmental law.
- The enforcement on International, EU and Swedish environmental law.

Course design

Teaching is structured in lectures and seminars. The student obtains knowledge and competences as above by individual studies of course literature and other course material, and by taking active part in lectures and seminars.

Examination is in the form of active participation in the seminars, a written exam and a research essay. All examination is part of the total grading.

Active participation in the seminars is mandatory.

Assessment

Examination is in the form of the student's active participation in the seminars, an in-class written exam and a research essay. All examination is part of the total grading.

Active participation in the seminars is mandatory.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with credit, Pass with distinction.

The final grade on the course is based on an overall assessment of the student's performance on seminars, written exam and research essay.

B – Pass

The student shows

- good knowledge of the fundamentals in International and EU Environmental Law
- in-depth knowledge of International and EU Environmental law on atmospheric pollution and climate change, conservation of biodiversity, protection of fresh water and the marine environment, and hazardous chemicals and waste.
- good understanding of the interaction between International Environmental Law, EU Environmental Law and National Environmental Law
- good knowledge about current research and methodology within the area
- basic knowledge of Contemporary research within the area
- good ability to identify legal problems, apply the relevant international, EU and national body of legal materials, analyze the problems and systematize arguments to solve them, within the field of Environmental Law, in particular in an international and European perspective
- good ability to conduct independent investigation in an objective but critical manner, and to present the results both in an oral and written manner.

BA – Pass with credit

The student shows

- in-depth knowledge of the fundamentals in International and EU Environmental Law
- in-depth knowledge of International and EU Environmental law on atmospheric pollution and climate change, conservation of biodiversity, protection of fresh water and the marine environment, and hazardous chemicals and waste.
- in-depth understanding of the interaction between International Environmental Law, EU Environmental Law and National Environmental Law

- good knowledge about current research and methodology within the area
- good knowledge of contemporary research within the area
- in-depth ability to identify legal problems, apply the relevant international, EU and national body of legal materials, analyze the problems and systematize arguments to solve them, within the field of Environmental Law, in particular in an international and European perspective
- in-depth ability to conduct independent investigation in an objective but critical manner, and to present the results both in an oral and written manner.

AB – Pass with distinction

The student shows

- very good knowledge of the fundamentals in International and EU Environmental Law
- excellent knowledge of International and EU Environmental law on atmospheric pollution and climate change, conservation of biodiversity, protection of fresh water and the marine environment, and hazardous chemicals and waste.
- very good understanding of the interaction between International Environmental Law, EU Environmental Law and National Environmental Law
- very good knowledge about current research and methodology within the area
- comprehensive knowledge of contemporary research within the area
- excellent ability to identify legal problems, apply the relevant international, EU and national body of legal materials, analyze the problems and systematize arguments to solve them, within the field of Environmental Law, in particular in an international and European perspective
- excellent ability to conduct independent investigation in an objective but critical manner, and to present the results both in an oral and written manner.

Entry requirements

For students studying for the professional Degree Master of Laws: prerequisites for studies on the 7th or 8th semester stated in the Curriculum for the Law Study programme.

Prerequisites for international exchange students: relevant undergraduate studies corresponding to three years at a university level.

Subcourses in JUCN21, Environmental Law in an International Context

Applies from V16

- 1601 Written exam, 6,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1602 Active participation in seminars, 1,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1603 Essay, 8,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass

Applies from V12

- 1201 Essay, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with credit, Pass with distinction