

Environmental Capstone Colloquium: *Pandemics and the Environment*

University of Florida Levin College of Law

Law 6930 – 1 Credit

Professor Amy L. Stein

Fall 2020 (Tuesdays, 2:40-4:30 pm, unless otherwise noted); synchronous online

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/91717613244?pwd=d3FrS2VwQjUzNTVWQUZlFkQUgzUT09>

| | Topic | Discussion Leaders |
|-------------|---|---------------------------|
| Aug. 25 | Introductory Meeting <i>Pandemics and the Environment 101</i> Dr. Sadie Ryan Associate Professor, Medical Geography University of Florida | |
| Sept. 8 | COVID, Climate, and the Environment (Stein) | |
| Sept. 15 | Pandemics and Environmental Justice Dr. Sacoby Wilson Associate Professor, School of Public Health, University of Maryland Director, Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health | |
| Sept. 22 | COVID and Energy (Stein) | |
| Sept. 29 | Pandemics and Natural Disasters Prof. Rob Verchick Gauthier-St. Martin Chair in Environmental Law at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law Senior Fellow at Tulane University's Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy | |
| Oct. 6 | COVID and Environmental Enforcement Prof. Jay Shimshack Associate Professor of Public Policy and Economics Associate Dean for Academic Affairs University of Virginia Frank Batten School | |
| Oct. 27 | Conclusion (mandatory) (Stein) | |

Environmental Capstone Colloquium *Pandemics and the Environment*

Professor Amy L. Stein
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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-2:30 pm or by appointment via Zoom.
<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/7982378500>

Meeting Time: Tuesdays: 2:40 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Synchronous – online course

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Meeting ID: 917 1761 3244

Passcode: 717793

Course Description: The Capstone Colloquium is a one-credit, pass-fail course that is required for graduation with the ELULP certificate. The course is open only to second and third year students. As space permits, the course will be open to non-certificate students, to graduate students throughout the university, and to certificate students who wish to enroll in the Colloquium for a second semester. The course will feature approximately two-hour virtual meetings, often with leading pandemic and/or environmental law academics and/or practitioners using Zoom. The faculty of the ELULP program will be welcome to Zoom into these presentations along with the Capstone students.

Course Objectives: The course goal is to introduce students to selected topics related to pandemics and the environment. Students will sharpen their skills of critical analysis and engage in dialogue with leading pandemic and/or environmental scholars from across the nation. In addition, the Colloquium provides an opportunity for the collegial exchange of ideas.

Class Attendance:

Students are expected to attend and participate in class. I am assuming that each student that enrolls in this course is committing to attend every class to the best of their abilities, and class attendance is required by both the ABA and the Law School. Absent special circumstances, you must participate with “video on” for the entire class to count as present.

- Nevertheless, to allow for exigencies in life, **students are permitted one excused absence from synchronous class during the semester** without impacting their final grade so long as they (1) notify me of their absence in advance so the class can be recorded; (2) submit their weekly critical reflection prior to class; (3) watch the recording of the class before the next scheduled class; and (4) write a one-page write-up after watching the class and submit it one week from receipt of the recording from Prof. Stein. This allowance is designed to accommodate for illness, job interviews, family emergencies, and life. Please budget accordingly so that you are not left at the end of the semester with a needed absence and your budget depleted.
- If students fail to comply with procedures (1)-(4) above, the absence will count as **unexcused** and Prof. Stein has the discretion to determine that that student has not satisfied the requirements to pass the class.
- Excused absences, including observance of religious holidays, are consistent with University policies, <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>,

and require appropriate documents and/or notification before or shortly after class about your absence.

- This policy starts on the first day of classes, not the end of the drop/add period.

Required Technologies and Materials:

- There is no required casebook. Instead, students will be required to read and prepare materials that will be posted on Canvas, or available on Westlaw or the Internet. Please have the materials in print or in an easily accessible electronic form in class. You are responsible for checking your Canvas page and the e-mail connected to the page on a regular basis for any class announcements or adjustments.
- Enrollment in this class is conditioned on high-speed internet and the technological capabilities to use Zoom to participate in this weekly online seminar (i.e., a reliable computer and internet connection).

Using Zoom Technology:

- Students are required to use Zoom in this course, so take the time to familiarize yourself with it by reviewing this helpful [Zoom Student Quick Start Guide](https://video.ufl.edu/conferencing/zoom/) or <https://video.ufl.edu/conferencing/zoom/>. By this time, you are probably all familiar with Zoom, but Zoom has a number of tutorials and a help desk as well: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>. The Zoom link for class is located at the top of this syllabus, as well as on the Canvas page. We will use the same Zoom link for each class.
- When you join the Zoom meeting, please use the following rules of video conferencing etiquette:
 - Choose a stationary location (meaning you must Zoom in from a computer, not from your phone);
 - Choose a location where there are minimal disruptions (e.g. roommates talking and pets jumping on you);
 - Do a test run of the space where you will be joining us and ensure that there is nothing private in the background that you would not like to share with your classmates. If your computer capabilities allow you to do so, consider using an *appropriate* Zoom background to further protect your privacy. <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/210707503-Virtual-Background>
 - Dress appropriately for video conferencing; Everyone is expected to participate with “video on” and work with me to manage muting in a way that minimizes disruptions to speakers and classmates while allowing for you to engage in the classroom.
 - Place turn off any cell phones and other electronic devices;
 - Close any other computer programs, websites, and email so you can give your classmates and speakers your full attention.
 - If you are asked to “share screen” during our Zoom meetings, please ensure that you have closed all other tabs and documents on your computer so you do not inadvertently share private information with the group.
 - Do not Zoom in the same room as someone else in the class. Unfortunately, Zoom “parties” create horrible feedback noises.
 - It is important that we all engage in a comfortable and safe place in this online classroom. As such, please do not (1) distribute the password-protected Zoom information to anyone not enrolled in the class; (2) take photographs or video any part of our class sessions; or (3) post or distribute any part of our classes or recordings. Our classes will be recorded, but will only be distributed upon a demonstrated need and only in accordance with the Class Attendance policies described above.

Should you anticipate any problems in complying with these policies, please contact me before the first class.

Learning Outcomes: After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Recognize and comprehend the terminology and basic issues related to pandemics and the environment, and be able to communicate them to others;
- Evaluate some of the competing trade-offs associated with the need to act expeditiously to address health emergencies and the need to protect the environmental health of affected individuals;
- Identify and analyze the environmental and social impacts of pandemics, and demonstrate an understanding of the legal challenges associated with them;
- Critically evaluate academic papers. Be able to prepare questions for the scholars that will deepen your understanding of the issues, and be able to engage in dialogue with the experts.

Course Requirements:

1. **Preparation:** Prior to each presentation, students will be required to study relevant background readings and to prepare for a critical discussion of the reading.
2. **Critical Reflections:** Students must submit five critical analysis reflection papers (a minimum of 700-900 words each) throughout the semester on Canvas. Reflections must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the day before class (Mondays) in PDF form (12 pt font, Times New Roman, single-spaced). You need to submit an analysis for the class periods with guest speakers (Aug. 25 (due Aug. 24), Sept. 15 (due Sept. 14), Sept. 29 (due Sept. 28), and Oct. 6 (due Oct. 5)), as well for the final class (Oct. 27 (due Oct. 26)). No critical reflection is due for class on Sept. 8 and Sept. 22. **Canvas will not accept late submissions.**

Each of the first four reflection papers must start with two questions that you will be prepared to ask our speaker. For the remainder of the paper, please present your reaction to the readings for that week's topic. You are free to use any of these prompts or one of your own:

- Do you agree or disagree with the views of the author, and why?
- Do the readings supply any lessons about how our legal system manages pandemics?
- Do you see any points of agreement/disagreement among our speakers? If you wish to comment briefly about the presentation of the prior speaker, you may do so.
- Do you have any other insights about the readings?
- Did the readings miss an important dimension of the debate?
- What would you want more information about if you had an additional directed research semester?

Specific guidelines will be provided for the last reaction paper of the semester.

3. **One Student "Discussion Leader" Day:** A group of 3-4 students will serve as the discussion leaders for the sessions. During our first class session, students will select a date for performing this role. To satisfy this class requirement, each student must (1) be prepared to lead your colleagues in a discussion of the questions you submitted in your critical reflection during class. If we have a guest speaker that day, at least one of your questions must be geared towards our guest speaker; and (2) submit a link to a hot topic article related to the theme for that class to Prof. Stein by 5:00 p.m. on the day before class (Mondays) with your reaction paper and be prepared to share and discuss how this hot topic is related and expands upon the readings for that week. You will be the first ones called upon to engage with any guest speakers before we open questions to the rest of the class.

ABA Out-of-Class Hours Requirement: ABA Standard 310 requires that students devote 120 minutes to out-of-class preparation for every “classroom hour” of in-class instruction. Each session of the Colloquium is approximately 2 hours in length, requiring at least **4 hours of preparation** outside of class including reading the assigned materials, writing critical analysis papers, and preparing questions for the speaker. You should pay particular attention to any highlighted assignments.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the [Disability Resource Center](#). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs (Dean Mitchell) when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester and notify their professor of any accommodations.

Final exam: There is no final examination.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <https://www.law.ufl.edu/life-at-uf-law/office-of-student-affairs/additional-information/honor-code-and-committee/honor-code> and <https://www.law.ufl.edu/life-at-uf-law/office-of-student-affairs/additional-information/honor-code-and-committee/honor-code-violations>.

Please pay particular note to the following:

Prohibition on Student Recording and Photography and Social Media Posting: Students may not take, circulate, or post photos or videos of classroom discussions, whether they are in-person, hybrid, or completely online. Students failing to follow this rule will be referred to the College of Law Honor Code Council and the University’s Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Online Course Evaluation: UF expects each student to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open by the Office of Student Affairs. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.