

**Environmental Capstone Colloquium: Climate Change Law**

Law 6930 (Section 0443) – 1 Credit

Professor Amy L. Stein

Spring 2020 (Wednesdays, 5:40-7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted)

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion Leaders</b>
Jan. 15	<b>Introductory Meeting (mandatory)</b> <i>Climate Science 101</i>  David Zierdan State Climatologist Associate in Research Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies Florida State University	
Jan. 22	<i>Climate Change Federalism</i>  Joe Kruger Director for Research and Strategy Georgetown Climate Center	
Jan. 29	<i>Climate Change Litigation</i>  Michael B. Gerrard Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice Director, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law Columbia Law School	
Feb. 7 12:30- 1:45 pm MLAC	UF Public Interest Environmental Conference: The Rights of Nature: Defending our Biosphere <i>Climate and...</i> <i>Insurance (Prof. Molk)</i> <i>Poverty (Prof. Hammond)</i> <i>Securities (Prof. Winden)</i> <i>National Security (Prof. Jamshidi)</i>	Agenda available here: <a href="https://ufpiec.org">https://ufpiec.org</a> Please register (free). If you cannot attend the PIEC in person on campus, please contact me for a recording of the session. During the Feb. 12 class session, we will discuss PIEC sessions that you attended the previous week.
Feb. 12	PIEC Debrief Discussion (Stein)	
Feb. 19	<i>Climate and Energy</i> (Stein)	
Mar. 18	<i>International Climate Law</i>  Sharmila Murthy Associate Professor of Law Suffolk University Law School	
Apr. 8	<b>Conclusion (mandatory)</b> <b>(Stein)</b>	

## **Environmental Capstone Colloquium** *Climate Change Law*

**Course instructor:** Professor Amy Stein, (352) 273-0953, [stein@law.ufl.edu](mailto:stein@law.ufl.edu), 311 Holland Hall.

**Office hours:** Via Zoom by appointment.

**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 with leading energy 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 climate change law. Students will sharpen their skills of critical analysis and engage in dialogue with leading climate change scholars from across the nation. In addition, the capstone provides an opportunity for the collegial exchange of ideas.

**Attendance:** To obtain credit for the course, students **must** virtually attend all seven sessions (to obtain credit for attending the Feb. 7 PIEC conference, students must also attend the Feb. 12 class debriefing the conference). The class is offered only on a pass/fail basis. In exceptional circumstances, the professor may allow for an excused absence.

### **Required Technologies and Materials:**

- There is no required casebook. Instead, students will be required to read and prepare materials that will be posted on the class TWEN site, or available on Westlaw or the Internet.
- Students must register for TWEN, available at [www.lawschool.westlaw.com](http://www.lawschool.westlaw.com), and have the materials in print or easily accessible electronic form in class. Class information and announcements will be distributed by e-mail to the address you supplied on TWEN. You are responsible for checking your e-mail on a regular basis for class announcements. Please ensure that your email is correct on TWEN, as you will be receiving recurring Zoom invitations based on those emails.
- 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/>. Zoom has a number of tutorials and a help desk as well: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>. **You will receive a recurring Zoom invitation from me by Monday, January 13 to join our classes. If you have not received a Zoom invitation for the first class by this date, it is your responsibility to contact me.**
- 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 not be in the same location as someone else enrolled in the Capstone (i.e., sorry – no Zoom parties – the feedback is horrible).
- Dress appropriately for video conferencing and make sure we can see your face on the video;
- Place turn off any cell phones and other electronic devices; and
- Close any other computer programs, websites, and email so you can give your classmates and speakers your full attention.

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

- Recognize and comprehend the terminology and basic issues related to climate changes law, and be able to communicate them to others;
- Evaluation some of the competing trade-offs associated with the approach to greenhouse gases (e.g., regulation, market incentives);
- Identify and analyze the environmental and social impacts of greenhouse gases, 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. Papers: Students must submit five critical analysis reaction papers (700-900 words each) throughout the semester. You do not need to submit one for the first class, but you must submit an analysis for the class periods with guest speakers (Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 12, and Feb. 19), as well for the final class (Apr. 8) (specific guidelines will be provided on the class TWEN site). Papers must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the day before class (Tuesdays). Please submit your papers online. On the class TWEN site, click on “Assignments and Quizzes.” Follow the instructions and upload your document. **The website will not accept late submissions.**

Each of the first four reaction papers must include two questions that you will be prepared to ask our speaker. For the remainder of the paper, please present your reaction to the readings supplied by each speaker. For example, you might comment on whether you agree or disagree with the views of the author, and why. Do the readings supply any lessons about how our legal system manages climate issues? Do you see any points of agreement/disagreement among our speakers? Do you have any other insights about the readings? In addition, if you wish to comment briefly about the presentation of the prior speaker, you may do so. Specific guidelines will be provided for the last reaction paper of the semester.

3. Student comment groups: A group of students will serve as the discussion leaders for each of the sessions. During our first class session, students will select a date for performing this role. Each student must participate in leading the discussion for one of the classes, as well as submit a hot topic article to Prof. Stein by 5:00 p.m. on the day before class (Tuesdays) with their reaction paper.

**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.

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:** Students requesting accommodation should first register with the UF Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which should be presented to the UF Law Office of Student Affairs when requesting accommodation. This procedure should be followed as early as possible in the semester. Law students with disabilities can also contact the Levin College of Law Office of Student Affairs for assistance on these matters in 164 Holland Hall, 273-0620, [www.law.ufl.edu/students/](http://www.law.ufl.edu/students/).

**Final exam:** There is no final examination.

**UF Law Honor Code:** Students are bound by the UF Law Honor Code, which can be found here: <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>.

**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/>.