# International Environmental law

#### LAW 6930, Section 13g2, 1 credit (14 hours)

#### Spring 2020 Room HH-285D M: 1:30-2:25; TuW: 1:00-1:55

Professor **Roberto Virzo**

Office hours: Room 368A MTW 3:40/4.35.

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Required Text:

Pierre-Marie Dupuy and Jorge E. Viñuales, *International Environmental Law* 2nded. (Cambridge University Press, 2018).

**Course Description and Course Objectives:**

This course offers an introduction to International environmental law. It provides the student with the most important issues related to the protection of the environment. In its first part, the course will deal with general issues as sources and principles of international environmental law, general obligations of states; issues of compliance, implementation and settlement of disputes. It will also address a thorough examination of specific topics included the international regulation of the marine environment, the protection of the atmosphere, the protection of endangered species and biodiversity. The course will eventually examine the conflicts between international environmental law and international economic law as well as the relationship between international human rights and the protection of the environment. Relevant cases will be presented during the course for analysis and discussion.

Students Learning OUTCOMEs:

At the end of the course, students will have a basic knowledge of and will be able to analyze:

* Multilateral Environmental Treaties
* Resolutions adopted by United Nations, UNEP and other Intergovernmental Organizations
* Advisory Opinions and Decisions adopted by International Court of Justice, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and Arbitral Tribunals.

Attendance Policy:

I take attendance in accordance with University and Law School policy and ABA rules. Law School policy states as follows:

“Class attendance is a primary obligation of each student, whose right to continued enrollment in the course and to take the examination is conditioned upon a record of attendance satisfactory to the professor.”

The American Bar Association’s standards provide that “regular and punctual class attendance is necessary to satisfy residence and class hour requirements.”

Absences for religious reasons are excused in accordance with university policy.

Please be on time as it is distracting for everyone to have persons coming into the classroom after class starts.

Exam:

The exam will be one-hour long. It will be distributed and collected electronically. The exam will be open-book. Only use the class material, which include the student’s notes, the text, power-point presentations and any additional handouts that are distributed. It will consist of three short answers. The course will be letter graded. I may increase exam grades upon active and informed participation in class.

AssignmentS:

The assignments are in Pierre-Marie Dupuy and Jorge E. Viñuales, *International Environmental Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2015).

I week: pp. 3-24

II week: pp. 38-43; 58-99

III week: pp. 299-324; 328-350; 107-124

IV week: 202-220; 158-197

V week: pp. 357- 399 472-490-

Power Point Presentations posted on TWEN

**Class Participation:**

Class participation is an important part of the course. The most instructive and enjoyable classes are those in which many people take part in the conversation.

**Class Preparation:**

Anticipate spending about 2 hours preparing for each class meeting. Prep time includes reading the materials, briefing the cases, thinking about the materials, and synthesizing your learning and knowledge of the assigned materials.

**Grades:**

The Levin College of Law’s mean and mandatory distributions are posted on the College’s website and this class adheres to that posted grading policy. The following chart describes the specific letter grade/grade point equivalent in place:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Letter Grade** | **Point Equivalent** |
| A (Excellent) | 4.0 |
| A- | 3.67 |
| B+ | 3.33 |
| B | 3.0 |
| B- | 2.67 |
| C+ | 2.33 |
| C (Satisfactory) | 2.0 |
| C- | 1.67 |
| D+ | 1.33 |
| D (Poor) | 1.0 |
| D- | 0.67 |
| E (Failure) | 0.0 |

Grading is in accordance with Law School policy, which is available at: *https://www.law.ufl.edu/life-at-uf-law/office-of-student-affairs/current-students/academic-policies*.

**Accommodation:**

Students with needs for accommodations should see Student Affairs whose staff will work with students according to Law School and University policy.

**Internet Policy and Related Issues:**

The internet, and more generally your laptop, is a great learning tool and invaluable asset to effective advocates. It should be used during class time as you will use it in practice: responsibly and ethically, consistent with the high professional standards that will be expected of you by your clients and by those who will employ you. This is important not only to you, but also to all the students around you who are affected by how you use your computer. It can be distracting to your classmates if you use your computer for activities unrelated to class. When you are talking, you should lower your laptop to facilitate communication.

Cell phones, tablets, and other electronic equipment should be turned off and not used during class. If you need to leave your phone on vibrate to receive an emergency call, please feel free to do so.

**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 *http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php*.

Final Exam: 2/21

**Tentative Schedule of Topics:**

1/21 and 1/22 Development of International environmental law: From The Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (1972) to Paris Climate Conference (2015)

1/27 The sources of International environmental law

1/28 and 1/29 General principles of International environmental law

2/3 and 2/4 Issues of implementation: Dispute settlement and compliance mechanism in International environmental law

2/5 and 2/10 The international protection of the Marine environment

2/11 The international protection of endangered species

2/12 and 2/17 The protection of the atmosphere and climate change

2/18 The protection of the environment and International trade law

2/19 The relationships between Human rights and the protection of the environment