International Environmental Policy and Law (GF-MEKO-6335)

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Department: Human Ecology (VUB)
Faculty/Subunit: Law (ULB), Institut d'Etudes européennes (ULB), IGEAT (ULB)
University/Institute: ULB & VUB

Course Summary

3 study credits (SP)
82 hours of study load (ST)
23 contact hours of lecture (HOC)
10 contact hours of Seminars or Practical exercises (WPO)
0 hours of Independent or External Form of Study (ZELF)

Course level and orientation

This course is taught in:

☐ 1st year ECOMAMA ☑ 2nd year ECOMAMA ☐ 1st semester ☑ 2nd semester

This course is:

☐ Compulsory ☑ Optional

of level:

☐ Introductory course ☐ Advanced course
☐ Fundamental course ☐ Specialized course
☑ Supporting course ☐ Laboratory and field training course

Competences

This course explicitly contributes to the following competences of the curriculum of Master of Ecological Marine Management:
General

☐ Developing the own learning process
☐ Learning to work in a team
☒ Searching for data sources
☒ Analysing and synthesising the learning material
☒ Presenting and transferring the acquired knowledge
☐ Reporting in various ways

Domain specific

☐ Gaining fundamental scientific knowledge and insight in marine sciences
☐ Developing laboratory skills
☐ Developing practical management skills
☐ Planning and conducting marine research in an autonomous way
☐ Understanding, judging and interpreting research results
☒ Analytical and problem-solving thinking
☒ Using research supporting tools (e.g. Biostatistics, GIS etc.)
☒ Critically evaluating and integrating multidisciplinary scientific information
☐ Translating scientific information into advice for sustainable marine management
☐ Communicating scientific findings to various kinds of audiences

Learning targets and goals

The objectives of the course are:

- to acquaint students with basic concepts of international law and policy

- to familiarize students with the analysis of legal materials and political processes relevant to the solution of global environmental problems and

- to give an overview of developments in the main areas of international environmental policy and law, including the prevention and control of marine pollution and the management of marine living resources.

Prerequisites

No specific prerequisites. The course is destined for graduate students with either a social science or natural science background.

Course content

The following topics will be covered:

1) A general introduction followed by the basic concepts and the sources of international law, with special attention to the treaty-making process.
2) Actors of international environmental policy, analysis of policy-making processes and the function and development of international regimes for the management of transboundary and global environmental problems.
3) The institutional framework of international environmental governance.
4) The environmental policy of the European Union: origin, legal basis and instruments.
5) The development of international environmental policy from Stockholm through Rio to Johannesburg and beyond: from environmental protection to sustainable development; general principles and historical perspective.
6) The international legal regime to address global warming: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the perspectives for their future development.
8) The settlement of international environmental disputes: case studies.

Study material

A reader containing a selection of legal documents.

Complementary study material:
A bibliography will be provided to students upon request.

Assessment mode


Second session: Oral exam.

Transfer of marks is possible.

Additional information