



COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Code
EUROPEAN UNION LAW ON ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s)
Coordinator: assoc. prof. dr. Indrė Žvaigždinienė Other (s):	Public Law Department, Faculty of Law, Vilnius University Saulėtekio av. 9, Building 1, LT-10222, Vilnius, Room 405, tel. (85)2366175, e-mail: vtkatedra@tf.vu.lt

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
Second	Optional

Mode of delivery	Course unit delivery period	Language (s) of instruction
Face-to-face	2 nd semester (spring)	English/ Russian

Requirements	
Pre-requisites: -	Co-requisites (if any): -

Number of credits allocated	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
6	160	36	124

Purpose of the course unit: programme competences to be developed		
The course unit aims at gaining advanced knowledge about the formation and development of European Union environmental protection law; systemic analysing the content of common principles of the European Union environmental protection law, as well as the practice of their interpretation and application; assessing the content of fundamental legal requirements of European Union environmental protection as well as their enforcement in national laws of Member States. The course seeks to develop skills of interpreting and applying the European Union environmental protection law, analysing case law, as well as analytical and critical thinking, interpersonal and communication skills.		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
- Students will be able to define the sources of European Union environmental protection law, as well as will be able to extensively analyse the content, meaning and purpose of legal norms embodying the requirements for the European Union environmental protection.	Lectures, seminars, individual work	Exam (open and closed tasks), group (individual) research work and its's presentation
- Students will be able to independently analyse, interpret, and correctly apply legal norms consolidating EU environmental requirements as well as to integrate knowledge of interrelated fields while providing legal services (inter alia, legal advice and recommendations, representation of legal interest).	Lectures, seminars, individual work	Exam (open and closed tasks), group (individual) research work and its's presentation
- Students will be able to analyse national legal acts of EU Members States in the context of conformity with EU environmental protection law from a critical point of view.	Lectures, seminars, individual work	Exam (open and closed tasks), group (individual) research work and its's presentation
- Students will be able to systemically analyse case-law and ethically interpret it in support of their legal decisions.	Lectures, seminars, individual work	Exam (open and closed tasks), group (individual) research work and its's presentation
- Students will be able to creatively apply the knowledge for the evaluation of the latest trends in the doctrine of European Union environmental protection law and case-law while independently solving complex legal problems taking into consideration possible social, ethical and legal consequences.	Lectures, seminars, individual work	Exam (open and closed tasks), group (individual) research work and its's presentation

- Students will be able to argue their position in written or orally based on the theoretical knowledge of European environmental protection legislation, knowledge gained in case law analysis and convey their ideas in a critical and reasonable manner.	Lectures, seminars, individual work	Exam (open and closed tasks), group (individual) research work and its's presentation
- Students will be able to actively participate and efficiently collaborate in team as well as to ensure group members integration by applying ethical values and moral sensibility in respect to cultural and social diversity.	Seminars, individual work	Group research work and its' presentation
- Students will be able to enhance acquired knowledge and abilities independently, inter alia, to use legal information data bases and other sources, to select relevant theoretical and practical material, and to substantiate their own conclusions by the achievements of jurisprudence.	Lectures, seminars, individual work	Exam (open and closed tasks), group (individual) research work and its's presentation

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours						Self-study: hours and assignments		
	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Practical sessions	Laboratory activities	Internship/work placement	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments
1. Origins and Evolution of European Union Law on Protection of Environment	2		-				2	4	Analysis of relevant legal doctrine and legal acts
2. Sources of European Union Law on Protection of Environment and their Relevance for the National Environmental Law of the Member States	2		-				2	4	Analysis of relevant legal doctrine and legal acts; analysis of case-law;
3. Principles of European Union Law on Protection of Environment	2		-				2	4	Analysis of relevant legal doctrine and legal acts; analysis of case-law
4. Enforcement at the EU Level of Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters	2		2				4	6	Analysis of legal acts; analysis of case-law
5. EU Legal Framework for Environmental Impact Assessment	3		2				5	10	Analysis of legal acts; analysis of case-law
6. EU Legal Framework for Liability for Violations of Environmental Legislation	2		2				4	8	Analysis of legal acts; analysis of case-law
7. European Union Legal Framework for Biodiversity Protection	3		2				5	10	Analysis of legal acts; analysis of case-law
8. European Union Legal Framework for Tackling Climate Change	2		2				4	6	Analysis of legal acts; analysis of case-law
9. European Union Legal Framework for Waste Management	2		2				4	6	Analysis of legal acts; analysis of case-law
10. European Union Legal Framework for Water Conservation and Use	2		2				4	6	Analysis of legal acts; analysis of case-law
								30	Writing of research work and preparation for delivery of presentation
								30	Preparation for the examination
Total	22		14				36	124	

Assessment strategy	Weight, percentage	Assessment period	Assessment criteria
Group (individual) research work	40	During the semester	Completed during the semester, a group (individual) work based on the analysis of the implementation of European Union environmental law in the national legislation; its presentation. Assessment consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - work content (comprehensive problem analysis, proper source application, critical analytical thinking, conclusion/recommendation formulation); - work structure and style (clear structural parts, scientific language style, exact wording, source references, proper and ethical citation use); - work presentation (concentrated work presentation, adhesive scientific language, the use of informative visual aids); - efficient and active participation in discussion, answering to questions.
Examination	60	At the end of the course	Open and closed tasks (questions), enabling students to demonstrate advanced knowledge and in-depth understanding and assessment of the problematics of European Union environmental law, developed during the course, as well as new competencies gained. When answering to open questions, students should provide all the necessary information in an argumentative, coherent and clear manner.

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of periodical or volume of publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				
R. MACROY ET AL.	2004	Principles of European Environmental Law		Groningen: Europa Law Publishing
JAN H. JANS, HANS H. B. VEDDER	2012	European environmental law: after Lisbon		Groningen : Europa Law Publishing
LUDWIG KRÄMER	2012	EU environmental law		London : Sweet & Maxwell
JAN H. JANS, RICHARD MACRORY AND ANGEL-MANUEL MORENO MOLINA	2013	National courts and EU environmental law		Groningen; Amsterdam: Europa Law Publishing
Recommended reading				
SUZANNE KINGSTON	2013	European perspectives on environmental law and governance		London; New York [N.Y.] : Routledge
	2013	Environmental impact assessment of projects: rulings of the Court of Justice		http://ec.europa.eu
	2006	Nature and biodiversity cases: ruling of the European Court of Justice		http://ec.europa.eu
	2013	The Aarhus convention: an implementation guide		United Nations, Geneva