



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s)
Coordinator: assoc. prof. dr. Indrė Žvaigždiniė Other(s):	Vilnius University, Faculty of Law, Department of Public Law Sauletekio av. 9, Building 1, LT-10222, Vilnius, 405 room, phone (8 5) 2366175, e-mail: vtkatedra@tf.vu.lt

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
Second	Elective

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

Requirements for students	
Pre-requisites:	Co-requisites (if any): none

Number of credits allocated	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	133	32	101

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed		
<p>The purpose of this course is to provide students with profound knowledge of Environmental Law in the light of the sustainable development goals. Students will be able to analyse and interpret national, supranational (including European Union) and international environmental regulation, policy implications and the case law from national and supranational courts, to evaluate challenges which occur in this field, as well as to develop interpersonal and communication skills. The course unit aims at developing the competence to carry out an individual research: to identify, analyze and solve complex legal problem of both law making and application of law in the field of international and European Environmental law.</p>		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will gain in-depth legal knowledge on sustainable development goals, legal requirements of environmental protection at national, supranational (including European Union) and international level and will be able to critically analyse and interpret them, assess legal, economical and ethical consequences of the developments in this sphere.	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (oral presentation, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature)	Participation in class activities; Individual research project; Exam (essay-type question and close-ended questions test)
Students will be able to identify and critique key ethical and interdisciplinary perspectives on the environment and the relevance of different aspects of jurisprudential and legal theory that underlie environmental law including ecologically sustainable development and environmental justice	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (oral presentation, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature)	Participation in class activities; Individual research project; Exam (essay-type question and close-ended questions test)
Students will be able to apply their knowledge to practical situations, analyse hypothetical cases and base their arguments on the relevant case-law	An interactive method of teaching during lectures and seminars (oral presentation, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature)	Participation in class activities; Individual research project; Exam (essay-type question and close-ended questions test)

	literature)	
Students will be able to actively and productively participate and collaborate in cross-cultural team activities, <i>inter alia</i> as leaders, as well as to ensure group members integration by applying ethical values and moral sensibility in respect to cultural and social diversity.	A cooperative learning method, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies.	Participation in class activities
Students will professionally communicate orally and in written, unambiguously and reasonably convey own well-grounded ideas, arguments and conclusions based on theoretical and practical knowledge and will be able to trigger or to contribute to the discussion with specialists and non-specialists providing their own insights in an international context.	An interactive method of teaching during seminars (oral presentation, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature)	Participation in class activities; Individual research project; Exam (essay-type question)
Students will be able to critically evaluate own accomplishments and to enhance acquired knowledge and abilities independently, <i>inter alia</i> , by using legal information data bases and other sources, selecting relevant theoretical and practical material, and to substantiate their own conclusions by using relevant research methods.	An interactive method of teaching during seminars (oral presentation, cooperative learning methods, including discussion forums, the analysis of problematic issues, case studies), individual studies (analysis of the relevant legal framework, policy and case-law, reading of academic literature)	Participation in class activities; Individual research project

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. Historical foundations of environmental regulation and the effectiveness of current environmental law in the context of ongoing and emerging challenges	2						2	8	Analysis of the relevant legal framework and case-law, reading of academic literature
2. Essential concepts and basic principles underlying Environmental Law, particularly the fundamentals of sustainable development	2						2	8	Analysis of the relevant legal framework and case-law, reading of academic literature
3. Environmental human rights and democracy	2		4				4	25	Group assignments; preparation of individual project; analysis of the relevant legal framework and case-law, reading of academic literature
4. Impact assessment: identifying the future consequences of a current or proposed action on the environment	2		2				4	10	Group assignments; Analysis of the relevant legal framework and case-law, reading of academic literature
5. Legislative policies and strategies to facilitate a shift to a low-carbon economy, reduce dependence on external suppliers and achieve energy security, and promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources	2						2	10	Group assignments; Analysis of the relevant legal framework and case-law, reading of academic literature
6. Sustainable management of natural	2		2				4	10	Group assignments;

resources									Analysis of the relevant legal framework and case-law, reading of academic literature	
7. Biodiversity conservation and sustainable development	2		2					4	10	Group assignments; Analysis of the relevant legal framework and case-law, reading of academic literature
8. Pollution prevention and control	2		2					4	10	Group assignments; Analysis of the relevant legal framework and case-law, reading of academic literature
9. Liability for environmental harm: a European and comparative perspective	2		2					4	10	Group assignments; Analysis of the relevant legal framework and case-law, reading of academic literature
Total	18		14					32	101	

Assessment strategy	Weight, percentage	Assessment period	Assessment criteria
Participation in class activities	20 %	During the semester	<p>Students will be expected to demonstrate both the knowledge gained during the course as well as their abilities to apply it in a given situation. Assessment of participation in class activities consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - presentation of the results of the group assignments (capability to critically assess the issues, to identify the most significant features, tendencies and developments related to the particular topic, to provide orally clear arguments in support of their points made in a logical, coherent and structured manner); - practical exercises (comprehensive analysis of practical situations while reviewing regulatory cases, relevant case-law); - participation in discussions (capability to provide correct answers to questions, formulate problems and suggest (search for) solutions, offer thoughtful critical remarks, contribute to other participants' ideas).
Individual research project	20 %	During the semester	<p>Every student will be assigned an individual research project. The assessment of an individual research project, related to the analysis of environmental law related issues, will be based on:</p> <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, contribution to other participants' ideas.
Final exam	60 %	At the end of the course	<p>The maximum number of points that may be received for the written exam is 6 (i.e. 6 points out of the final grade, which is 10 points). In the written exam, one essay-type question and a test of 10 close-ended questions will be provided. The question and the test will have the same weight for the exam grade - 3 points each.</p> <p>The assessment criteria for essay type question:</p> <p>2.1 - 3 points: from excellent to good knowledge and abilities. The question is fully answered and the arguments provided are complete, clear, coherent and persuasive, with correct references to the applicable legal sources. The answer is well-structured and the ideas are easy to follow.</p> <p>1.1 - 2 points: from good to average knowledge and abilities. The arguments provided in the answer to the question show a good level of knowledge of the student, but the arguments are incomplete, not clearly structured, there are some mistakes or some points are missing or are imprecise.</p>

			<p>0.1 - 1 point: knowledge and abilities are below average, but they still meet minimum requirements. The answer to the question consists of basic ideas, the arguments are mentioned, but not developed, major mistakes as regards the legal assessment are present.</p> <p>0 points: failure to meet minimum requirements. The answer to the question misses the point or are completely underdeveloped.</p> <p>The assessment criteria for test:</p> <p>Each correct answer to the questions of the test will give 0.3 point.</p>
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Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a 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
ed. F. CARVER	2019	Sustainable development goals: transforming our world		London: Witan Media
P. SANDS	2003	Principles of International Environmental Law		Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/principles-of-international-environmental-law/00DB84D321DA304D35C90CB1935477F1)
Recommended reading				
ed. S. MALJEAN-DUBOIS.	2017	The effectiveness of environmental law		Cambridge : Intersentia
ed. B. JESSUP, K. RUBENSTEIN	2012	Environmental discourses in public and international law		Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
ed. D. LEARY AND B. PISUPATI	2010	The future of international environmental law		Tokyo: United Nations University Press
	2012	Manual on human rights and the environment		Strasbourg: Council of Europe Publishing (https://www.echr.coe.int/LibraryDocs/DH_DEV_Manual_Environment_Eng.pdf)
	2014	The Aarhus Convention: An Implementation Guide (second edition)		Geneva: United Nations (https://www.unece.org/en/pp/implementation_guide.html)