

LAWS 7020 INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 200907

Coordinator Maria Gurlica ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Maria Gurlica/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Maria%20Gurlica/))

Description This subject provides an overview of international environmental law and policy. It investigates legal and policy measures for managing and protecting the environment in a sustainable manner. The subject will begin by exploring the economic, political, and legal concepts relevant to international environmental legal regimes. It will then apply these concepts to concrete regimes designed to deal with specific international environmental problems, such as climate change, ozone depletion, air pollution, hazardous waste, freshwater resources, marine pollution, world heritage, human rights, biodiversity and habitat loss. The subject focuses principally on the dynamic of treaties, negotiations, and state and non-state actors in the international arena. Special attention will be given to 21st Century environmental problems. Appropriateness of the present environmental legal regimes and challenges for the future will also be mooted in the subject.

School Law

Discipline International Law

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Postgraduate Coursework Level 7 subject

Pre-requisite(s) LAWS 7057

Restrictions

Students must be enrolled in program 2824 Master of Laws or 2826 Juris Doctor to enrol in this subject.

Students in programs 8083 Bachelor of Research Studies should seek permission from the law school via a rule waiver to enrol in this subject.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental principles and concepts relating to the protection and preservation of the global environment.
2. Critically evaluate principal institutions and operation of the international legal system and demonstrate understanding of key actors, sources of law and dispute resolution processes.
3. Apply international environmental management principles and concepts to contemporary environmental issues and in problem solving.
4. Undertake independent research and analysis that demonstrates an understanding of the application of international environmental law in a defined context, that is clear, analytical and appropriately structured and referenced.
5. Make some assessment of where international environmental law and policy can be expected to develop in the future.

Subject Content

Sources and Development of International Environmental Law and Policy
 International Environmental Management Principles and Concepts
 The Changing Nature of International Environmental Law and Policy
 The Role of International Institutions
 Climate Change Regime
 Ozone Depletion Regime
 International Control of Hazardous Waste
 State Responsibility
 Marine Environment
 Control of Marine Pollution
 International Watercourses
 Protection of the Polar Regions
 Conservation of Biodiversity
 Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage
 Human Rights and Environment
 Trade and Environment
 Strengths and Weaknesses of International Environmental Regimes

Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

| Type | Length | Percent | Threshold | Individual/ Group Task | Mandatory |
|---------------|---|---------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| Quiz | 20 minutes | 10 | N | Individual | N |
| Participation | On going | 10 | N | Individual | N |
| Presentation | 30 minutes (including 10 minutes for questions) | 45 | N | Individual | N |
| Essay | 2,000 words | 35 | N | Individual | N |

Summer On-site

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

| Type | Length | Percent | Threshold | Individual/ Group Task | Mandatory |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| Quiz | 20 minutes | 10 | N | Individual | N |
| Participation | On going throughout semester | 10 | N | Individual | N |
| Presentation | 30 minutes in total | 45 | N | Individual | N |
| Essay | 2,000 words | 35 | N | Individual | N |

Prescribed Texts

- There is no prescribed textbook for this subject. Readings will be uploaded to vUWS.

Teaching Periods

Summer (2025)

Parramatta - Victoria Rd

On-site

Subject Contact Maria Gurlica ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Maria Gurlica/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Maria%20Gurlica/))

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=LAWS7020_25-SUM_PS_1#subjects)