



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2023

8,478: International Environmental Law

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Oral examination (individual) (100%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,478,1.00 International Environmental Law](#) -- Englisch -- [Proelss Alexander](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

International environmental law is a sub-system of public international law, which is why students participating in the course should have basic knowledge of public international law, in particular its subjects and sources (even though a brief introduction will be given at the beginning of the course). Participants are expected to participate actively in class discussions.

Learning objectives

- Students will acquire knowledge about a special field of public international law that has, in particular in light of global warming and global biodiversity loss, considerably gained in practical relevance and importance.
- Students will become familiar with the specifics of international environmental law and its interrelationship with environmental governance.
- Students will gain insight into the challenges of international environmental governance and attempts to address them legally.

Course content

The course introduces students to international environmental law in its entirety. In a first part, cross-cutting issues will be addressed (concept, history and sources of international environmental law; principles of international environmental law; environmental protection through procedures; environmental protection and human rights), by means of which references to general international law will be established at the same time. In a second part, the regimes for the protection and sustainable use of individual environmental media and challenges are analyzed (climate protection; conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; protection of air and space; marine protection; protection of inland waters). Occasional references to European Union law are also integrated.

More precise details will be made available in an outline in advance of the beginning of the course.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course will take place in blocked form. The content of the course is divided as follows:



Unit 1: Development and sources of international environmental law

Unit 2: General principles of international environmental law

Unit 3: Environmental protection through procedures

Unit 4: Environmental protection and human rights; international environmental liability

Unit 5: Protection of species and conservation of biodiversity

Unit 6: Marine environmental protection

Unit 7: Climate protection

Unit 8: Protection of inland waters

Unit 9: Integrated approaches to transboundary environmental protection

Course literature

Course materials will be made available on studynet. The course is designed to be as interactive as possible, requiring pre- and post-work. Popular English-language works in the field of environmental law include, in particular:

- U. Beyerlin/T. Marauhn, *International Environmental Law*, 2011, Hart Publishing
- P. Birnie/A. Boyle/C. Redgwell, *International Law and the Environment*, 4th ed. 2021, OUP
- D. Bodansky/J. Brunnée/E. Hey (Hrsg.), *The Oxford Handbook of International Environmental Law*, 2008, OUP
- P.-M. Dupuy/J.E. Viñuales, *International Environmental Law*, 2nd ed. 2018, CUP
- T. Koivurova, *Introduction to International Environmental Law*, 2013, Routledge
- L. Rajamani & J. Peel (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of International Environmental Law*, 2nd ed. 2021, OUP



- P. Sands/J. Peel, Principles of International Environmental Law, 4th ed. 2018, CUP
- E.J. Techera/J. Lindley/K.N. Scott/A. Telesethsky (eds.), Routledge Handbook on International Environmental Law, 2nd ed. 2020, Routledge

Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/1)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Oral examination (individual) (100%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Length: 20 minutes per student.

Examination-aid rule

Closed Book for Examinations in Law

The use of aids is limited to the list below:

- any programmable electronic devices that are capable of communication such as electronic dictionaries, notebooks, tablets, smartphones, headsets, additional screens, etc. are not admissible unless they are expressly required for the examination or have been admitted under supplementary aids by the faculty members in charge of the examination;
- any texts of edicts issued by the Confederation in the four national languages and in the English translation of the Swiss Federal Chancellery, as well as the official edicts issued by the Canton of St.Gallen are also admissible. For reasons of simplicity, those edicts from this admissible category which are required for the examination are listed under the heading "Supplementary aids";
- additional aids and private collections of law are only admissible if they are expressly listed under supplementary aids. The list is exhaustive. Any private collections that are not listed are expressly prohibited and will be confiscated without compensation – regardless of whether they are law editions that are commented, uncommented or annotated;
- unless defined otherwise under supplementary aids, any documents may be combined in any number and language;
- pocket calculator models of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series as well as dictionaries without any handwritten notes are allowed.

The following preparation of legal texts is permitted:

- references to other legal articles, including all designations and numbers as they occur in the legal texts that are permitted (e.g. Arts 62 ff. CO / Art. 164(1)(a) FC / Art. 25(2)(a)(8) VAT Act / Art. 158 FC i.c.w. Art. 4 ParLA / Art. 29(II) FC, etc.). They must be written in a national language and/or in English;
- highlighting with any type of highlighter or marker pen in different colours (e.g. underlining or circling something, special characters such as arrows, asterisks, etc). The systematic highlighting of individual letters is prohibited, as are any other notes and comments;
- tabs: self-adhesive tabs in the margin of individual legal texts are permitted but they must only bear marginalia, titles and



articles (e.g. Art. 141 FC: Optional referendum or 5. Title: Federal Authorities or Art. 5 FC) of the corresponding page.

Print-outs and copies of admissible legal texts (i.e. all official editions or permitted private collections, including tables of contents and indices) must be identical with the original and must be able to be unequivocally assigned to a source.

Procuring any aids, as well as ensuring their working order, is the exclusive responsibility of students.

Supplementary aids

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Nature of examination

analog

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

All course materials and subjects discussed in class. The oral examination will cover the content of the course units mentioned above in sections on "course content" and "course structure".

Examination relevant literature

All course materials. Further literature references that are relevant for the examinations will be provided during the course.

Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 12 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 26 January 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 20 March 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 20 March 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the de-registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 10 April 2023).