Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Course Name: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY
Number of credits: 4.5 ECTs (equivalent to 3 Vietnamese Credits)

Period: Fall/spring semester (11 weeks)

Cooordinator	**Vietnam Maritime University**
Credits	4.5 ECTs (equivalent to 3 Vietnamese Credits)
Lecturers	DINH THI THUY HANG
Level	BSc.
Host institution	Vietnam Maritime University
Course duration	45 class hours (in line with the overall academic schedule)
New/revised	New

Summary

The environment is borderless and therefore requires similar regulations to some extent. Each country has their own socio-economic system and may differ in the practice of environmental protection. The international treaties may help to harmonize those differences and resulting in various challenges for the governments all over the world.

Target student audiences

BSc. students majoring in Global Study and Maritime Affairs

Prerequisites

Required courses (or equivalents): NO

Aims and objectives

The course reviews international laws and policies governing pollution and natural resources. Upon completion of the course, students will have broad knowledge concerning how environmental laws and policies work in the global context. The students will be able to understand the actual practices of international law and policies to protect the environment and natural resources.

The Authentic Tasks:

The course provides basic knowledge of typical international environmental law and policy.

General learning outcomes:

By the end of the course, successful students will:

Knowledge	• Have an overview of international laws and policies on the management of the physical and biological components of both marine and inland environment.
Comprehensive	• Be able to understand some international laws and policies to prevent transboundary environmental pollution.
Application	• Be able to practice relevant law and policies in certain circumstances

	to deal with an environmental issue.
Analysis	• Analyze the sources of environmental pollution and resources depletion.
Synthesis	• Summarize the overall solutions related to law and policy.

Overview of sessions and teaching methods

The course will make most of interactive and self-reflective methods of teaching and learning and, where possible, avoid standing lectures and presentations

Learning methods

- Video presentations
- Project Based Learning
- Literature review
- Brainstorming
- Puzzles
- Query
- Mind map
- Problem-based learning
- Team work

Course outline

Week	Topics
Week 1	Introduction to environmental law and policy
Week 2	Global air pollution
Week 3	Continental water resources
Week 4	Wetlands
Week 5	Biological diversity
Week 6	Endangered species
Week 7	Transboundary pollution
Week 8	Basel convention on Hazardous wastes
Week 9	Marine pollution and MPAs
Week 10	Problems of high seas, IMO and its typical treaties
Week 11	Sustainability, green growth and blue shipping
Final exam	

Course Schedule

Topic 1. Introduction to environmental law and policy	
Learning objectives	• Getting acquainted with one another. • Provide basic knowledge about the definitions and basic principles of environmental law and policy.
Learning outcomes	• Students can give examples on the basic principles of environmental law and policy.

Student deliverables	• Short-writing on their goals and expectations on the course. • Brief introduction to their initial thoughts over environmental law and policy.
Topic materials	• Handouts provided by lecturer prior to the class time. • Koivurova, Timo (2014), Introduction to International Environmental Law, Routedge, London and New York.
Outline	*Basically, the outline will be structured as per students' brainstorming with the facilitation of lecturers with the following key contents:* • Why study environmental law • Basic themes of environmental law • Analytical frameworks • The four principles to select instrument for a policy maker
Topic 2. Global air pollution	
Learning objectives	• Provide basic knowledge about the nature of ozone depletion, climate change and global responses to these issues
Learning outcomes	• Students can explain the causes, effects and solutions to typical global air pollution in terms of environmental law and policy.
Student deliverables	• Presentations by group of 4 members related to the global air pollution as per students' interest. • Discussion in class under the facilitation of lecturer.
Topic materials	• Handouts provided by lecturer prior to the class time. • Students' own searching related to ozone depletion, climate change
Outline	• Ozone depletion: The science of ozone depletion, International control, Developing countries, Lessons learnt. • Climate change: The science of climate change, Impacts of climate change, International legal responses, Climate change policies, Successes and Failures.
Topic 3. Continental water resources	
Learning objectives	• Provide basic knowledge about continental water pollution and the key contents of the Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses.
Learning outcomes	• Students can give examples on the sources of water pollution and basic principles of environmental law and policy.
Student deliverables	• Presentations by group of 4 members related to the topic as per students' interest. • Discussion in class under the facilitation of lecturer.
Topic materials	• Handouts provided by lecturer prior to the class time. • Students' own searching
Outline	• An overview of water pollution • National legislation on water pollution

	• Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses
Topic 4. Wetlands	
Learning objectives	• Provide basic knowledge about the definitions and importance of wetlands, The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, known as the Ramsar Convention.
Learning outcomes	• Students can recognize a certain weland and estimate its importance • Students can categorize wetlands and wetlands of international importance basing on specific criteria
Student deliverables	• Presentations by group of 4 members related to the topic as per students' interest. • Discussion in class under the facilitation of lecturer.
Topic materials	• Handouts provided by lecturer prior to the class time. • Students' own searching
Outline	• The importance of wetlands • Ramsar convention • Wetlands of international importance
Topic 5. Biological diversity	
Learning objectives	• Provide basic knowledge about the role of biological diversity and the related Convention on biological diversity.
Learning outcomes	• Students can classify biodiversity and analyze its importance. • Students can propose relevant measures to protect biological diversity based on Ramsar convention.
Student deliverables	• Presentations by group of 4 members related to the topic as per students' interest. • Discussion in class under the facilitation of lecturer.
Topic materials	• Handouts provided by lecturer prior to the class time. • Students' own searching
Outline	• What is biological diversity? • The importance of Biodiversity • Convention on biological diversity.
Topic 6. Endangered species	
Learning objectives	• Provide basic knowledge about the endangered species and the key content of the convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora (CITES).
Learning outcomes	• Students can give examples on the basic principles of environmental law and policy.
Student deliverables	• Presentations by group of 4 members related to the topic as per students' interest.

	• Discussion in class under the facilitation of lecturer.
Topic materials	• Handouts provided by lecturer prior to the class time. • Students' own searching
Outline	• Basically, the outline will be structured as per students' brainstorming with the facilitation of lecturers. • Key contents include: examples on endandered spieces, extinction risks, introduction to CITES.
Topic 7. Transboundary pollution	
Learning objectives	• Provide basic knowledge about the definitions and basic principles of transboundary pollution.
Learning outcomes	• Students can analyze the source and impacts of transboundary pollution.
Student deliverables	• Presentations by group of 4 members related to the topic as per students' interest. • Discussion in class under the facilitation of lecturer.
Topic materials	• Handouts provided by lecturer prior to the class time. • Students' own searching
Outline	• What is transboundary pollution? • How does pollutant travel? • Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution
Topic 8. Basel convention on Hazardous wastes	
Learning objectives	• Provide basic knowledge about the nature of hazardous wastes and how to control the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal via a international convention.
Learning outcomes	• Students can recognize some typical hazardous wastes which are used in their daily activities. • Students can apply Basel convention in their coming career related to the transport of hazardous wastes.
Student deliverables	• Presentations by group of 4 members related to the topic as per students' interest. • Discussion in class under the facilitation of lecturer.
Topic materials	• Handouts provided by lecturer prior to the class time. • Students' own searching
Outline	• Wastes characteristics • Introduction to Some key hazardous wastes • The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
Topic 9. Marine pollution and MPAs	
Learning	• Provide basic knowledge on marine pollution and the introduction of

objectives	MPAs aiming at protecting vulnerable seas.
Learning outcomes	• Students will understand the source of marine pollution and the classification based on UNCLOS • Students will understand the definition, classification and case study for MPAs.
Student deliverables	• Presentations by group of 4 members related to the topic as per students' interest. • Discussion in class under the facilitation of lecturer.
Topic materials	• Handouts provided by lecturer prior to the class time. • Students' own searching
Outline	• Source of Marine pollution • Types, causes and effects of marine pollution • Definition and classification of MPAs • Why do we need MPAs • Case studies
Topic 10. Problems of high seas, IMO and its typical treaties	
Learning objectives	• Provide basic knowledge on Pollution caused by shipping, IUU fishing, and MPAs on the high seas
Learning outcomes	• Students can understand the impacts of shipping activities on marine environment resulting in pollution. • Students can give examples on IUU fishing and propose typical measures to control IUU fishing • Students can analyze the pros and cons of establishing MPAs on the high seas.
Student deliverables	• Presentations by group of 4 members related to the topic as per students' interest. • Discussion in class under the facilitation of lecturer.
Topic materials	• Handouts provided by lecturer prior to the class time. • Students' own searching
Outline	• What is high sea? • History of International Maritime Organisation – IMO • Key IMO Conventions and related protocols • History of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships - MARPOL
Topic 11. Sustainability, green growth and blue shipping	
Learning objectives	• Provide and discuss basic knowledge on sustainability, green growth and blue shipping.
Learning outcomes	• Students can understand the definition and meaning of sustainability • Students can discuss on green growth • Students can talk about blue shipping based on related knowledge gained

	in other courses.
Student deliverables	• Presentations by group of 4 members related to the topic as per students' interest. • Discussion in class under the facilitation of lecturer.
Topic materials	• Handouts provided by lecturer prior to the class time. • Students' own searching
Outline	• Sustainability • Green growth • Blue shipping

Literature

Course books:

- Koivurova, Timo (2014), Introduction to International Environmental Law, Routedge, London and New York.

Reference books:

- Birnie P., Boyle A. and Redgwell C., (2009) International Law and The Environmental, Oxford University Press, New York.
- Hohmann, Haral (1994), Precautionary Legal Duties and Principles of Modern International Environmental Law, Graharn & Trotman/Martnus Nijhof, London.
- Weiss, Edith Brown (1989), International environmental law and policy, Apsen Law and Business.

Course workload

The table below summarizes course workload distribution:

Activities	Learning outcomes	Assessment	Estimated workload (hours)
In-class activities (45 hours)			
Lectures	Students can understand the definition and related regulations on the topics	Mid-term, accounting for 30% of overall score Final, accounting for 30% of overall score	25
Facilitated discussions	Students can debate on a specific issue related to the topic, show their understanding and point of view on the matter, resulting in developing their critical thinking and communication skills.	Class participation and preparedness for discussions. Students can earn bonus via significant contribution to the discussions.	10
Presentations	Students can present their findings on a	As 1 mid-term,	10

and follow-up discussions	specific issue based on their own search and information consolidation.	accounting for 30% of overall score	
Independent work (90 hours)			
Home work and Exercise	Ability to interpret data, analyze objects and use concepts, tools, and methods, and equations to solve problems.	Quality of individual assignments	90
Total			**135**

Course Assignments

Course assignments will constitute a multi-part project:

- Assignment #1 – Presentation (Y_1)
- Assignment #2 – Mid-term (Y_2)
- Assignment #3 – Final (Y_3)

Assignment #1: Students are encourage to select their favourite topics related to the theme of the course and conduct presentation within 20 minutes each group of 4 members.

Assignment #2: Multiple choice test covering week 1-5.

Assignment #3: Multiple choice test covering week 6-11.

Grading

The students' performance will be evaluated based on the following:

Ass. components	Ass. evidences
X. Progress grade	X – Attend class in at least 75% of total class hours
Y. End-of-course grade	Y_1 – Mid-term exam
	Y_2 – Presentation on a specific issue
	Y_3 – Final exam

Evaluation

Course evaluation grade: $Z = 0.1X + 0.3Y_1 + 0.3Y_2 + 0.3Y_3$