



School of Social Sciences and Humanities (S3H)
National University of Sciences & Technology

Course Title: International Climate Law, Policy and Governance

Course Code: GPP-810

Pre-requisites: TBD

Course Objectives:

The goals and objectives of the course are twofold.

First, students are introduced to the problem of climate change and familiarized with the wide-ranging facets associated with the phenomenon, including its potential impact on the climate and environment. The phenomenon will be understood in full through science and economics, discussing subtopics such as greenhouse gas emissions, global warming, and risks to biodiversity, water and food security.

The second objective is to invite discussion on the innovative solutions to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis, specifically through law, policy and governance.

With reference to international law, the course will describe the international climate change legal frameworks, which have thus far orchestrated global climate action. In the process, students will build an understanding for the difficulties of achieving agreement in negotiations, as well as gathering international support to combat climate change.

With regards to policy, the course invites a discussion on the conflicting political, economic and social factors that influence environmental policy, and look in the ways different stakeholders have a role in defining environmental problems, as well as formulating and implementing solutions. It will explore the policies that have been developed globally, regionally, and nationally.

Course Outcomes:

Through this course, we will also learn of the governance structures and mechanisms put in place to build capacity for climate action, along with the key political actors and relevant regulatory agencies involved in climate governance. We conclude on why sustainable development has been selected as a pathway for the future.

Course Contents

1. Introduction to law and governance of the climate
2. Climate change explained through science
(gases, carbon fuels, aerosols and radiation, dynamics of the atmosphere and oceans, interaction with biosphere)
3. Social and developmental impacts of Climate change
(regional and global environmental problems including global warming, risks to biodiversity and wetlands, dilemma of commanding clean water and clean air, hazardous wastes)
4. Global climate policy: a distant dream?
5. Analysis of global climate policies and undertakings
6. International climate negotiations and global environmental treaty-making
7. International legal architecture for climate change

(Evolution of the United Nations Climate Regime, framework convention on climate change, Kyoto Protocol, Paris agreement)

8. Climate change in legislative decision making
9. Environmental justice
10. Global environmental governance
11. Environmental advocacy and public perception of risk attached with climate change
12. Pathways to sustainable development
13. Greenwashing and compliance of MNCs
14. The politics of Green Economy:

Recommended / Reference Books:

- Hunter, David, James Salzman, and Durwood Zaelke. International Environmental Law and Policy. Foundation Press, 2006.
- Speth, James Gustave, and Peter M. Haas. Global Environmental Governance. Island Press, 2006.
- Boehmer-Christiansen, Sonja, and Jim Skea. “Government, Politics and Environmental Policy-making.”
- Barrett, Scott. Environment and Statecraft. Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Daniel Bodansky, Jutta Brunnée, and Lavanya Rajamani. International Climate Change Law, 2018.