

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW:LOCAL AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES - 62409

Last update 19-01-2021

HU Credits: 2

<u>Degree/Cycle:</u> 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Law

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Rachelle Adam

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Coordinator Office Hours: by appointment

<u>Teaching Staff:</u> Dr. Rachelle Adam

Course/Module description:

The course addresses the global environmental crisis, triggered by human activities overloading Earth's carrying capacity. Rapid population growth together with an even faster growing economy and rising consumption, are running up against the boundaries of planetary systems, thrusting us from the relatively calm Holocene into the turbulent Anthropocene. The course will focus on these roots of the crisis that are driving ecological destruction despite a multiple number of both international and national laws.

The following themes will accompany us throughout the course: can current laws respond effectively to the impact of extreme economic growth and consumption on the

environment, or do they subordinate environmental protection to economic and corporate interests? How do we go about replacing current governance models fixed on the assumption that humans are separate and superior to nature, with governance systems that view humans as part of nature, and aim to protect nature's interests to thrive and

sustain itself? And finally, how will law protect future generations in a world of 10-12 billion people under worsening ecological and climatic conditions?

In the debate on effective governance models for this crisis, we will explore "Earth Law" that posits that the crisis will continue until society foregoes the principle underlying the current legal system, that humans are superior to nature rather than part of it. We will discuss the links between violations of human rights and destruction of nature, exploring the doctrine of rights of nature and the belief that to protect human rights, we must also recognize nature's rights. We will view the environmental crisis from the perspective of the relationship of humans to other species, focusing on humans' treatment of animals as property which has led to cruelty and abuse.

Course/Module aims:

In the context of law as a tool used by society to regulate human behavior, the course aims to provoke debate on current environmental laws. An analysis of these laws demonstrates that

they were structured to implement industrial society's perspective of nature as human

property to exploit for profit, a belief that underlies the environmental crisis. Thus the course challenges existing assumptions as to their effectiveness in reversing intensifying

environmental devastation, while considering alternatives and identifying governance

systems that have done better in reaching sustainability and promoting harmony with nature.

<u>Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be</u> able to:

The overriding objective is to enable you to deconstruct environmental laws and policy to understand why they are not reversing environmental degradation, taking into account that they are structured to view nature as property to be used for human use. This will require identification of the roots of the environmental crisis and differentiating between its direct and indirect causes. A further objective is to challenge you to consider alternatives to current governance models, that will respect planetary boundaries rather than crossing these boundaries by exploiting and consuming ecosystems. Another key objective of the course is to demonstrate the impact of our behavior and consumer habits on the environment, e.g., how the clothes we buy, the food we eat, our modes of transportation and communication, all contribute to the crisis, and the role of law in reversing these trends.

The course will familiarize students with key environmental terms, concepts, doctrines, and analytical tools. Students will be exposed to the geological time periods, the Holocene, in which we lived until very recently, and the new and troubling Anthropocene. They will become familiar with the tragedy of the commons, the public trust doctrine, and legal standing for natural objects, as analytical frameworks for defining and assessing the environmental crisis, as well as the concepts of planetary boundaries and ecological footprints. They will view environmental problems through anthropocentrism, biocentrism, or, ecocentrism, as well as the environmental ethics approach - the relationship of man to other species and future generations - as a road map to gaining different perspectives on the crisis.

Attendance requirements(%):

Your mark will consist of evaluation of your participation in class, and from three "response essays" of two pages each, that will be assigned during the course. You will be asked to summarize and evaluate the key ideas and concepts of the essay text, and to write your own response by means of interpretation and analysis of the material, based on well-structured arguments.

Cumulative marks of three response essays: 80%

Class participation: 20%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Class attendance and active

participation in class discussions are key to the success of the course. This is particularly true if the upcoming semester will continue to be taught through zoom, ruling out class fieldtrips which comprise an integral element of the course by allowing students to actually experience the issues discussed in class. Thus if we continue to hold classes through zoom, in lieu of fieldtrips, you will be required to spend about 30-45 minutes in a natural surroundings, e.g., a beach, a forest, a city park, where you will be requested to note your responses to questions that I will post regarding the human relationship to nature in the context of law.

Students are expected to attend at least 80% of the classes, to prepare for each class by reading the assigned material, and to be ready for class discussions. Because of the rapid changes that the global environment is currently undergoing, I will add relevant material to the syllabus during the course. Thus please view the syllabus as an evolving, rather than a final document.

Course/Module Content:

Introduction: the global environmental crisis

Population, consumption and economic growth

International environmental law

Land, biodiversity, and protection of nature Rights of Nature

Animal law

SOLVING THE WATER CRISIS IN ISRAEL: RECLAIMED WASTEWATER AND DESALINATION

Fracking

Coastal and marine protection

Air pollution

Managing hazardous substances Managing waste

Ecocide Rethinking environmental law

Required Reading:

I will post the required class reading prior to each class, from the list below.

<u>Additional Reading Material:</u>

GENERAL READING

EARTH LAW, EMERGING ECOCENTRIC LAW, A GUIDE FOR PRACTITIONERS (EDS. ZELLE, WILSON, ADAM, GREENE) (2020)

ALON TAL, POLLUTION IN A PROMISED LAND, AN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OF ISRAEL (2002)

אלון טל, הסביבה בישראל, הקיבוץ המאוחד (2006)

דניאל פיש, דיני איכות הסביבה (2002)

YUVAL NOAH HARARI, SAPIENS: A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUMANKIND (2010)

JARED DIAMOND, GUNS, GERMS AND STEEL

INTRODUCTION: THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

THE WORLD WATCH INSTITUTE VITAL SIGNS, VOLUME 22; THE TRENDS THAT ARE SHAPING OUR FUTURE, Island Press (2015)

THE WORLD WATCH INSTITUTE, VITAL SIGNS, Vol. 20, Island Press (2013), Overview, xi-xv

THE WORLD WATCH INSTITUTE, STATE OF THE WORLD, Is Sustainability still Possible?, Island Press (2013), 19-38

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Jared Diamond, Easter Island's End, Discover Magazine, August 1995, http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/24/042.html

Christopher Stone, Should Trees Have Standing? Towards Legal Rights for Natural Objects, SOUTHERN CAL. LAW REV. (1972). http://www.derechosdelanaturaleza.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/C.Stone-Should-Trees-Having-Standings.pdf Garret Hardin, The Tragedy of the Commons, 162 SCIENCE 1243 (1968). (http://dieoff.org).

http://www.garretthardinsociety.org/articles/art_tragedy_of_the_commons.html

JAMES GUSTAVE SPETH, RED SKY AT MORNING, AMERICA AND THE CRISIS OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT (Yale University Press 2004) 1-22

ZYGMUNT PLATER, THE SNAIL DARTER AND THE DAM (Yale University Press, 2013), 44; 333-335; 167-173; 356 n.2

.HUNTER, SALZMAN, ZAELKE, INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY (2011)

MARY CHRISTINA WOOD, NATURE'S TRUST, ENVIRONMENTAL LAW FOR A NEW ECOLOGICAL AGE (Cambridge University Press, 2014), 3-18.

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POPULATION, CONSUMPTION, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

ALON TAL, THE LAND IS FULL: ADDRESSING OVERPOPULATION IN ISRAEL Yale University

(2016), chapters 1 and 2.

801-P0900/P0860.aspx

Alon Tal, Will demography defeat river rehabilitation efforts? The case of the River Jordan, WATER RESEARCH, Available online 30 December 2016,

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28135596

אין אוויר: למה לעזאזל כל כך צפוף בישראל?

http://www.themarker.com/misc/article-print-page/1.2942142

מה הבעיה עם בגדים שנמכרים בזול?

מיכל ארבל- לוי: "המספרים מדהימים. אחד מתוך שישה אנשים בעולם עובד בחוליה כלשהי של "תעשיית האופנה, זה שוק ששווה אולי 2 טריליון דולר

George Monbiot, Everything Must Go, Economic growth will destroy everything. There's no way of greening it – we need a new system. the Guardian 22nd November 2017

George Monbiot, Urge, Splurge, Purge, The demand for perpetual economic growth, and the collective madness it provokes, leads inexorably to environmental collapse, the Guardian 13th September 2017, https://www.monbiot.com/2017/09/15/urge-splurge-purge/

"Moving toward green growth", Israel Bulletin, May 2012 http://www.sviva.gov.il/English/ResourcesandServices/Publications/Bulletin/Documents/Bulletin-Vol38-May2012.pdf., 4-5

"Lets Think Green Campaign: focusing on a green lifestyle", Israel Bulletin, Sept. 2011

http://www.sviva.gov.il/English/ResourcesandServices/Publications/Bulletin/Docume nts/Bulletin-Vol37-Sept2011.pdf, 8-10

TIM JACKSON, PROSPERITY WITHOUT GROWTH, ECONOMICS FOR A FINITE PLANET, (2009) http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/unga13/prosperity.pdf., 3-10,15-16,17

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http://www.gnhbhutan.org/about/gross_national_happyness_centre.aspx James Salzman, Sustainable Consumption and the Law, 27 ENVTL. L. 1243 (1997)1244, 1244-1248; 1256-1268

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HUNTER, SALZMAN, ZAELKE, INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY (2011), 544-547; 550-563 (Montreal Protocol on Substances that Delete the Ozone Layer); 685-694 (the Kyoto Protocol); 999-1013, (the Convention on Biological Diversity)

Robert Percival, Global Law and the Environment, 86 WASH. L. REV. 579 (2011), 586-592

RACHELLE ADAM, ELEPHANT TREATIES, THE COLONIAL LEGACY OF THE BIODIVERSITY CRISIS (University Press of New England 2014), 1-12 ,תקנות החומרים המסוכנים (יישום פרוטוקול מונטריאול בענין חומרים הפוגעים בשכבת האוזון), 2004-ד

Michael Glennon, Has International Law Failed the Elephant? AJIL Vol.84 (1), http://www.istor.org/stable/2203015, 1-4. 10-13, 28-37.

Rachelle Adam & Joan Schaffner, International Law and Wildlife Well-Being: Moving from Theory to Action, JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE LAW & POLICY Vol. 20, Iss. 1, 2017

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

World Wildlife Fund, Living Planet Report, 2018

https://wwf.panda.org/knowledge_hub/all_publications/living planet report 2018/

Planetary Boundaries: Exploring the Safe Operating Space for Humanity, Johan Rockström et al (2009)

The Anthropocene: From Global Change to Planetary Stewardship. Will Steffen et al. AMBIO Published online: 12 October 2011

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3357752/

Ecological footprints, Global footprint network, https://www.footprintnetwork.org/our-work/ecological-footprint/

"State Health Department Releases Draft Revisions to NYC's Waiver from filtering Drinking Water from the Catskill/Delaware Water System",

http://www.health.ny.gov/press/releases/2013/2013-08-23_fads.htm, Israel's National Biodiversity Plan (2014),

http://www.sviva.gov.il/English/env_topics/biodiversity/Documents/NationalBiodiversityPlan2010.pdf

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Rachelle Adam. Safe Passage through a Wave of Extinction: Saving Israel's Endangered Mountain Gazelle JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE LAW & POLICY, Vol.19,No.2, 1-23.

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http://theconversation.com/how-changing-your-diet-could-save-animals-from-extinction-81061

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Damian Carrington, Plummeting insect numbers 'threaten collapse of nature, THE GUARDIAN, 10 Feb 2019, https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/10/pl ummeting-insect-numbers-threaten-collapse-of-nature

John Vidal, Salmon farming in crisis: 'We are seeing a chemical arms race in the seas'

Rare only 40 years ago, farmed salmon is now taken for granted in our kitchens. But the growth of the industry has come at great cost, THE GUARDIAN, 1 April 2017 https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/apr/01/is-farming-salmon-bad-for-the-environment

UN Food & Agriculture Organization, Livestock's Long Shadow-Environmental Issues and Options, http://www.fao.org/3/a0701e/a0701e00.htm (2006)

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CLIMATE CHANGE

The Reluctant Activist, https://www.collectiveeye.org/products/the-reluctant-radical (documentary on climate change activist Ken Ward, as a defendant in Washington

v. Ward)

Jem Bendell Deep Adaptation: A Map for Navigating Climate Tragedy Revised 2nd Edition Released July 27th 2020 http://lifeworth.com/deepadaptation.pdf

David Wallace-Wells, The Uninhabitable Earth, Famine, economic collapse, a sun that cooks us: What climate change could wreak — sooner than you think. NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE,

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Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 20 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 80 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

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