

Course title	International Environmental Law				
Responsible person to enter grades	SHIBATA Akiho		開講区分	単位数	
			2nd semester	2.0	
Numbering Code		Day・Period, etc.	Mon3(対面)	Timetable Slot Code	3J392

#### Lesson topic

**IMPORTANT:** Special Introductory Class on October 5 (Thu) or 6 (Fri). See below.

International Environmental Law: Combatting Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and Marine environmental Degradation

How can the humanity protect and sustainably utilize the global commons such as the climate of the earth, the biodiversity of the planet, and the ocean? This is the challenge for the humanity and for international environmental law in the twenty-first century. By taking this course, the registered students will be able to understand the current status of international normative and institutional frameworks to tackle these pressing environmental challenges and to consider proactively how the humanity as a whole should act in the days to come to strengthen those frameworks to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The registered students are encouraged to actively participate in international fieldwork to Iceland and/or special seminar in Kobe and to engage with scholars and students from all over the world interested in the international environmental law applicable to the polar (Arctic and Antarctic) regions. [EUIJ subject]

#### Lesson target

Upon completion, the registered students should be able to analyze the global environmental challenges from an international legal perspective and to proactively propose legal and institutional means to tackle those challenges.

More specifically, the registered students should be able to:

- (1) Collect the basic factual information through newspapers and internet relating to global environmental challenges, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, and the rapid degradation of marine environment;
- (2) Research and analyze by themselves international legal documents and material addressing such global environmental challenges;
- (3) Engage in academic discussion with international students and scholars, by participating in international academic conferences; and
- (4) Form their own views on both effectiveness and deficiencies of the current status of international environmental law and proactively propose their improvements.

## Syllabus and plan

Revised and updated on Sept. 11 2023.

\*Please note Prof. Shibata will be on mission abroad from Oct.9 to Nov. 1 and will not be available for consultation regarding this class during this period.

1 ★ Special Orientation and Introduction Class: October 5 (Thu) 2nd Period at SI or October 6 (Fri) 2nd Period at SI.

Please attend either one of the above. If you cannot come to either of these two occasions, please send an email to Prof. Shibata with your full name, affiliation and year, and a brief statement why you are interested in taking this course at the latest by noon of October 5, Thursday.

2-4. October 16 (Mon), 23 (Mon), 30 (Mon)

Individual research and report preparation. Please submit the presentation slide (PPT) by noon of November 1 (Wed) as an attachment to an email to Prof. Shibata.

5. November 6 (Mon):

What is international environmental law?

6. November 13 (Mon):

Most pressing global environmental threat: Climate Change

7. November 20 (Mon):

Students' Presentation on individual research #1

8. November 27 (Mon):

Students' Presentation on individual research #2

9. ★ December 1 (Fri), 15:00-17:00

Special seminar by guest speaker (TBD) on Antarctic environmental protection

10. December 4 (Mon):

Climate Change and International Law

11. December 11 (Mon):

Climate Change and International Law in Arctic and Antarctic context

12. December 18 (Mon):

Second pressing global environmental threat: Loss of biodiversity

[December 25 (Mon): No class]

13. January 15 (Mon):

Conservation of biodiversity and international law

14. January 22 (Mon):

Biotechnology and international law: GMOs, genetic resources and DSI

15. January 29 (Mon):

Marine environmental protection and international law: with particular focus on Marine plastic pollution

## Evaluation method

The students will be evaluated based on: preparation for the class (20%); class participation (40%); and presentations based on research (40%). There will be no final examination. Short preparatory memos for the class may be requested to hand in.

#### Evaluation baseline

Class preparation is evaluated based on reading/analyzing the assigned materials before coming to the class so as to be able to engage in the discussion during the class.

Class participation is evaluated based on the quality (rather than the quantity) of the comments and questions, demonstrating his/her ability to understand the issue, analyze the issue in objective and academic manner, present logically his/her view on the issue, and be open to the views of other students and of professor.

Class presentation is evaluated based on the scope and depth of the research, preparation of concise and logical summary (resume) for the presentation, the presentation performance, and the responsiveness to questions and comments from the class.

#### Notice (include info. on related class)

The students are encouraged (but not required) to take basic courses in public international law.

Kobe University BEEF will be utilized fully (communications and assignments), so please be familiarized with the system.

#### Review and preparation

The registered students should come to the class prepared by reading the assigned materials. If you have questions as to how to prepare for the class, please contact the professor by e-mail.

Kobe University requires 45 hours of study from students to award one credit, including both in-class instructions as well as study outside classes. Students are required to prepare for each class and complete the review after each class, depending on the respective class goals.

#### Office hour · Contact information

After the class or by appointment via e-mail.

#### Message for student

We hear a lot on the news how the earth's environment has been rapidly deteriorating, but do you know how the humanity has been trying to tackle it? Since global environmental issues require international, concerted actions, international environmental law plays a very important role in such actions. I hope you will deepen your understanding how much the humanity has done to tackle the challenge and what more we should/can do.

#### Improvements in Teaching

Through this course, the registered students will have an opportunity to engage with international law scholars and students from around the world gathering in Kobe or participating in international fieldwork.

#### Text

From Sands and Peel's textbook, please read relevant chapters as indicated by the professor.

From Rajamani and Peel Handbook, this class will take up mainly Chapter 29 Climate Change.

Principles of International Environmental Law (4th edition, 2018) / Philippe Sands and Jacqueline Peel : Cambridge University Press ,2018 , ISBN:9781108431125

The Oxford Handbook of International Environmental Law (2nd edition, Sept. 2021) / Lavanya Rajamani and Jacqueline Peel : Oxford University Press ,2021 , ISBN:9780198849155

#### Reference Material

Additional documents, academic articles and references will be introduced in the class and provided through BEEF. Cf.,

Research Handbook on International Environmental Law, 2nd edition (Elgar, 2021); Research Handbook on International Marine Environmental Law, 2nd edition (Elgar, 2023); Paris Agreement on Climate Change: A Commentary (Elgar, 2021); The International Law of Biotechnology, 2nd edition (Elgar, 2023); Global Plastic Pollution and its Regulation (Elgar, 2023); A Research Agenda for Water Law (Elgar, 2023); Research Handbook on Fundamental Concepts of Environmental Law, 2nd edition (Elgar, 2022); Climate Change Law: An Introduction (Elgar, 2021)

Oxford Handbook on International Climate Change Law / Gray, et al eds, : Oxford UP ,Oxford, 2016 ,ISBN:

Research Handbook on Climate Change Adaptation Policy / Keskitalo & Preston eds., : Elgar ,2019 ,ISBN:

#### Classroom Language

English

When Japanese students are present, the professor may use Japanese to promote understanding of technical terms.

#### Keywords

International law, environment, climate change, biodiversity, ocean, Antarctic, Arctic