

Course title	International Law for Sustainable Development				
Responsible person to enter grades	HIRANO Miharuru		開講区分	単位数	
			2nd semester	2.0	
Numbering Code		Day・Period, etc.	Thurs2(対面)	Timetable Slot Code	3J399

Lesson topic

In an era marked by immense global challenges, the concept of sustainable development has been frequently cited as a vision for transforming our world. It has been over 30 years since the term was coined at international fora. However, despite intensive discussions, both theoretical and practical ambiguities surrounding sustainable development persist. Despite remaining skepticism, the concept has continued to guide international law in evolving into an effective problem-solving tool.

This course will explore the role of international law in promoting sustainable development. In this course, students will unpack the concept of sustainable development, study its functions in law-making and law-applying processes, and analyze how international legal instruments intersect with and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while clarifying the limitations and challenges that underpin the interrelationship between international law and sustainable development.

Lesson target

This course will be structured around the following specific learning outcomes:

- i) Students can identify the value clashes and global issues using the concept of sustainable development;
- ii) Students can explain the legal significance and limitations of the concept of sustainable development;
- iii) Students can retrieve legal documents and analyze their contents;
- iv) Students can explain how international law and its institutions promote sustainable development.

Syllabus and plan

This course will be conducted in a seminar style. Based on the reading materials, students will share their opinions and analyses. The instructor will explain the contents of the reading materials while also raising questions for discussions. Students will also be expected to make presentations.

INTRODUCTION

Class 1 - Introduction

Class 2 - Basic structure of international law

THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Class 3~6 - Conceptions of sustainable development - Discussions of selected papers

FUNCTIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN TREATIES AND JURISPRUDENCE

Class 7 - Sustainable development in treaties

Class 8~9 - Sustainable development in jurisprudence

OPERATIONALIZING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE SDGS

Class 10 - The Sustainable Development Goals: An overview

Class 11~14 - Student presentations on one of the Goals

CONCLUSION

Class 15 - Review of the course

Note: This syllabus is a general guideline and can be adjusted based on the specific needs of the students and important events that may take place during the course.

Evaluation method

- Engagement in the class discussion - 40%
- Reaction papers - 30%
- Presentation - 10%
- Final report - 20%

Evaluation baseline

- Engagement in the class discussion: Degree of internalizing knowledge and critical thinking. Students need not be afraid to lose points for providing wrong answers.
- Reaction papers: Whether students have sufficiently engaged with the reading materials prior to each class and to enhance active in-depth discussions.
- Presentation & Final report: The level of achievement of the learning objectives of this course.

Notice (include info. on related class)

Students are expected to be familiar with the basic concepts of international law, such as state sovereignty. This course is open to students not enrolled in KIMAP (Kobe LL.M.), including exchange students and special auditing students.
Please bring your PC, which will be needed to read other students' reaction papers and to conduct internet-based research on legal materials.

Review and preparation

Students are expected to read the assigned reading materials prior to attending each class and be prepared for discussions. Reaction papers must be submitted 24 hours before the class. After each class, review the discussions of each class and practice legal research skills.

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

Office hour: 4th period on Tuesdays (15:10-16:40)
Details will be indicated during the first class and through the course page.

Message for student

Issues related to sustainable development is felt on a global scale. In this modern era, international law is no longer exclusively used by diplomats and professionals at international organizations; it has become an essential tool for local administrative officials, business persons, journalists and activists. We, as citizens, also need to understand the fundamentals of international law, since our political decisions and a significant portion of any government's policies have international implications. This course is, thus, for anyone who wishes to better understand the increasingly complicated world we live in from a legal lens.

Improvements in Teaching

Text

Reading materials will be provided through the course page which will be made available through BEEF+.

Reference Material

Duncan French and Louis J. Kotzé (eds.), *Sustainable Development Goals: Law, Theory and Implementation* (2018).
Jonas Ebbesson and Ellen Hey (eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of the Sustainable Development Goals and International Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2022).
Ilias Bantekas, Francesco Seatzu and Katerina Akestoridi (eds.), *The UN Sustainable Development Goals: A Commentary* (Oxford University Press, 2023).

Sustainable Development Goals: Law, Theory and Implementation / Duncan French and Louis J. Kotzé : Edward Elgar ,2018 , ISBN:9781786438768

The Cambridge Handbook of the Sustainable Development Goals and International Law / Jonas Ebbesson and Ellen Hey : Cambridge University Press ,2022 , ISBN:9781108769631

The UN Sustainable Development Goals: A Commentary / Ilias Bantekas, Francesco Seatzu : Oxford University Press ,2023 , ISBN:9780192885906

Classroom Language

English

Keywords

international law, Sustainable development, SDGs, exchange student(special auditing student), term report, laptop