

Course title	International Law for Sustainable Development				
Responsible person to enter grades	HIRANO Miharu		開講区分	単位数	
			1st semester	2.0	
Numbering Code		Day・Period, etc.	Thurs2(対面)	Timetable Slot Code	1J365

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 the international forum. 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 examine the meaning of 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 3~5 - Conceptions of sustainable development - Discussions of selected papers

FUNCTIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN JURISPRUDENCE

Class 6~7 - Sustainable development in jurisprudence

OPERATIONALIZING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE SDGs

Class 8 - The Sustainable Development Goals: An overview & Group making

Class 9~13 - The Sustainable Development Goals: Group discussions and drafting posters

Class 14 - Presentation of a final poster

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 - 30%
- Reaction papers - 30%
- Group work & Poster presentation - 30%
- Term report - 10%

Evaluation baseline

- Engagement in the class discussion & Group work: The degree of internalizing knowledge and critical thinking will be assessed. Students need not be afraid to lose points for providing wrong answers. Students should contribute and collaborate in the group project.
- Reaction papers: Whether students have sufficiently engaged with the reading materials prior to each class and to enhance active in-depth discussions.
- Poster presentation & Term 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.

This course will require group work.

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: Wed. 2nd period (10:40-12:10)

Message for student

Issues related to sustainable development are 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 on the course page which will be available through BEEF+.

Reference Material

The Sustainable Development Goals in International Law and Policy / Erika J. Techera : Routledge ,2025 ,ISBN:
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:9780192885173

Classroom Language

English

Keywords

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