**Course Information**

Name: International Environmental Law  
Teaching Institution: Maastricht University  
Location: Maastricht, The Netherlands  
Dates: 26th January – 18th February 2012  
Duration: 3 weeks  
Course contact hours: 36 hours of academic classes and seminars plus additional professional visits  
Pre-requisites: 1 year of university law study

**Instructor Information**

The course is coordinated by Dr. Marjan Peeters, Professor of Environmental Policy and Law at Maastricht University. She is widely trained in environmental law and teaches since 2001 International, European and national environmental Law at Maastricht University. She has worked in practice (governmental office) for nine years specializing in water and soil protection laws. Currently she specializes in climate protection law.

**Course Descriptions and Learning Outcomes**

The environment by nature knows no boundaries. While environmental law originally focused on local problems like local air and noise pollution, today we are confronted with severe trans-boundary and global environmental problems like the continuing loss of biodiversity, long-distance air-pollution, and the threat of climate change. The course International Environmental Law deals with core subjects related to the supra-nationalisation of environmental law.

The course will be structured around themes, which are:

- international environmental rule-making, including compliance and enforcement
- international environmental principles
- human rights and environmental protection
- international and EU climate law, including the choice of the right regulatory instruments to steer citizen & business behaviour
Climate change will be taken as the leading real-world case to be discussed during the course.

The program is designed for students with an interest in becoming future policy and decision makers in government and businesses, working in NGOs in the field of environmental law and sustainable development, consultants, researchers and academics, corporate lawyers, barristers and practitioners.

**Academic classes (36 hours)**
There will be 36 hours of academic classes and seminars across the 3 weeks of the course. Classes will cover the following topics such as:

- Fundamentals of International Environmental Law
- International and European Institutions and Environmental Protection
- European Environmental Law
- International Climate Law
- Environmental Litigation and International Dispute Resolution: Compliance and Enforcement
- Water Resources and Global Energy Law
- Pollution Law
- Environmental Law and Economic Development
- International Law of Sustainable Development

**Professional Visits (approx. 12 hours)**
There will be approximately 12 hours of sites visits and on-site seminars/discussions as part of the program.

Visits are to be confirmed, but will include institution such as:
- The International Court of Justice in the Hague
- Netherlands Environment Assessment Agency
- Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment
- European Parliament
- European Commission
- Flemish Environmental Agency
- Institute for European Environment Policy
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

**Cultural Activities**
The course includes a number of cultural activities, both inside and outside of Maastricht, designed to give participants an appreciation for Dutch culture and attitudes, and the regional context within which the country interacts. The cultural program will include an integration program with local students as well as tours and visits to cities in Maastricht and around the region (e.g. Brussels, Bruges, The Hague and Amsterdam). A visit to Bonn might possibly also be included (TBC).

**Learning outcomes**
The overall objective of this course is providing a basic understanding of the main characteristics and developments of environmental law in an international perspective. A related specific goal is to provide an understanding of the interrelationship between international and European greenhouse gas regulation.

By the end of the course, students should have knowledge of:

- International rule-making through multilateral environmental agreements, including compliance and enforcement
- The complexities surrounding environmental principles
- The value and shortcomings of current human rights arrangements for environmental protection, including procedural rights with regard to governmental decision-making in environmental matters
- The regulation of greenhouse gases on the international and EU level

Students should also be able to:

- Describe some of the core legal issues relating to climate change
- Summarise the institutions and organisations that have jurisdiction in international and European environmental issues
- Analyse the key environmental issues the European Union is facing today
- Compare the institutions that have jurisdiction over European legal and human rights issues
- Reflect on these institutions strengths and weaknesses
- Compare and contrast cultural differences between Europe and Australia

Teaching Methods
The course is based on the following mix of teaching methods: participatory teaching, short introductory lectures, and student presentations. In addition, excursions to institutions in the field will be organised and guest lecturers will be invited.

Course requirements (assessment)
Students are required to undertake the following assessment (to be confirmed).

- End of program test – 30%
- Final assignment (3000 words) – 70%

Australian universities may choose to request additional assessment from students, such as submitting a reflective journal, in order to approve credit transfer (this is strictly optional).

Literature
To be confirmed

**Attendance**
Students are required to attend all lectures, presentations, visits, practical and cultural activities that are scheduled as part of the program.

The attendance rules for this course are specified in the CES Regulations on Education and Examinations 2009-2010 document, under paragraph 3. It is the responsibility of the student to carefully read this document and comply with all rules and regulations.

**Class participation**
Students will be required to participate in discussions during lectures, seminars and visits.

**Academic honesty**
Students will be required to comply with Maastricht University’s policies regarding plagiarism and academic integrity.

**Grading**
The course will be assessed against the standardised ECTS grading system (A – F).
Those obtaining passing grades are divided into five subgroups: the best 10% are awarded an A-grade, the next 25% a B-grade, the following 30% a C-grade, the following 25% a D-grade and the final 10% an E-grade. Those who do not achieve a performance sufficient to allow a passing grade are divided into two subgroups: FX (Fail – some more work required before credit can be awarded) and F (Fail – considerable further work is required).

Students will receive a transcript from Maastricht stating their results. The official transcript will usually be available 4-6 weeks after the conclusion of the final program assessment.

**Available Support Services**
The program is fully supported by Maastricht’s international office and students will have access to both academic and pastoral support. Students will have access to campus computing and library facilities to assist them with completing the program’s required assessment.

**Contact Information**
For further information regarding this syllabus, please contact the Australian Institute for Mobility Overseas:
info@aimoverseas.com.au
Phone: (02) 9029 0429
Web: www.aimoverseas.com.au
## Draft Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 26 January</td>
<td>Arrival day. Check-in and grocery shop tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27 January</td>
<td>Opening ceremony and orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 28 January</td>
<td>Day off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 29 January</td>
<td>Day off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 30 January</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 31 January</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1 February</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 2 February</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 3 February</td>
<td>Study trip (Amsterdam?) (included overnight stay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 4 February</td>
<td>Study trip (Amsterdam?) (included overnight stay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 5 February</td>
<td>Study trip (Amsterdam?) and return to Maastricht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 6 February</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 7 February</td>
<td>Maastricht excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 8 February</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 9 February</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 10 February</td>
<td>Study trip (Brussels?) (included overnight stay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 11 February</td>
<td>Study trip (Brussels?) (included overnight stay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 12 February</td>
<td>Study trip (Brussels?) and return to Maastricht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13 February</td>
<td>Day off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 14 February</td>
<td>Day off (or possibly Bonn excursion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 15 February</td>
<td>4 hours of classes (midterm exam + lecture)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 16 February</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17 February</td>
<td>4 hours of classes and closing ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 18 February</td>
<td>Check out of the Guesthouse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Course schedule is subject to change