Stockholm University

3 July 2025

TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

COURSE OUTLINE – AUTUMN TERM 2025

Welcome to *Transboundary Environmental Law* at the Department of Law, Stockholm University.

1 Purpose and Content of the Course

The course *Transboundary Environmental Law* is an advanced introduction to environmental law in transboundary contexts. The transboundary dimension involves international law, supranational law (European Union law) and transnational law (e.g. extraterritorial application of national laws) to manage, resolve and control environmental issues across state borders. *Transboundary Environmental Law* highlights legal norms, processes and practices relating to, e.g. climate change, air, water and soil pollution, the protection of nature and biodiversity, and legal control of waste and hazardous substances. *Transboundary environmental law* also introduces the students to development policies, changes in legal thinking across state borders, and comparative studies of concepts and approaches in environmental law. In addition, the course examines thematic legal issues, such as dispute resolution, sanctions, implementation, the achievement of environmental objectives, international institutions, environmental protection in relation to globalisation, trade and human rights, and environmental liability of transnational corporations.

The course is not only intended to teach existing legal structures, principles and approaches to environmental matters in transboundary contexts. It also aims at encouraging critical legal reasoning among the students, i.e. reviewing, assessing and questioning structures, principles, institutions and concepts. For instance, how are environmental concerns weighed against other societal interests? Is the legal system adequate to face the current environmental and health problems? What are the hurdles and potentials, if any, for international and EU law, to effectively promote environmental justice, resilience and sustainable development?

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2 Overview

Transboundary Environmental Law is a 10-weeks course. It comprises lectures where students are expected to actively participate, the writing of a memo, the writing of a short essay with an oral presentation of the essay, and a final examination in writing. All these elements are part of the examination; some are graded Pass (G)/Fail (U), some are graded with credit points for the final grading. To pass the course, students will have to participate in and fulfil all these parts. See below for more details.

The entire course – i.e. all teaching, reading material and discussions – is in English.

3 Teaching

Lectures: While labelled lectures, no teaching is a one-way street. For most lectures, *reading assignments* with questions will be posted on the course website, at the platform *Athena*. To fulfil the requirements for active participation, students should prepare for the lectures by reading the relevant literature and answering the questions. Thus, the lectures will regularly have a *seminar* style. To pass the course, active participation in at least 80 percent of the lectures (indicated "80 PERCENT") is required. Participation at lectures is graded Pass (G) or Fail (U).

The examination is not limited to the content of the course literature. *Anything* related to transboundary environmental law that has been discussed at *any lecture* (including when "OPTIONAL") may be subject to the final written examination. In addition to discussions on the specific topics, the lectures will provide occasions for explaining and expanding on other elements of the course, e.g. the written assignments.
All lectures are expected to take place on site, ie at the campus. In exceptional cases, lectures will be given on line.

Written assignments: As a part of the course and the examination, each student will complete two written assignments:

- A *memo* of 7-800 words (approximately two pages) on national approaches to complying with international environmental law, referring to a country or jurisdiction with which the student is acquainted. The memo will be the basis for the discussion on the lecture "National approaches to complying with international environmental law". The memo is graded Pass or Fail.

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- A *short essay* of 2,500-3,000 words (approximately 5 pages), including references and footnotes. The topics for the essays will be presented at the lecture "Written assignments", and will be decided for each student either at that lecture or soon after. 3-5 students are expected to write about each topic. The essay will be graded 0-20 points (and in accordance with the grade criteria set out below). These points will be added to the points received in the final examination.

Oral presentation: By the end of the course, each student will make an oral presentation, based on the short essay, jointly with 2-4 other students who have written about the same topic. *Note* that participation at *all* oral presentations (ie. not only at the one in which the student makes her or his own presentation) is *mandatory*.

4 Literature

Literature for this course:

- Dupuy & Viñuales, *International Environmental Law*, 2 ed., Cambridge University Press, 2018, Print or electronic version
- Kingston, Heyvaert & Čavoški, *European Environmental Law*, 1 ed., Cambridge University Press, 2017 Print or electronic version
- Literature, case-law references etc. as set out in instructions for lectures
- List of references to key legal acts and instruments.

5 Social Events

First week of the course, we will have a social event, where we, in addition to chatting about your plans and expectations, and about what it means to work with environmental law in transboundary contexts, will watch the documentary movie "*Toxic Playground*" (about Swedish shipments abroad of hazardous waste) and discuss it. The issues raised in the movie will also be discussed at the lecture on corporate environmental liability in transboundary contexts. At the end of the course, we will watch the documentary movie "*Arica*", which is a kind of follow-up, about the lawsuit that took place some years after "*Toxic Playground*".

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6 Examination

The examination consists of multiple parts, some graded Pass (G)/Fail (U), some with grading in points. The results of these parts are added for the final grading.

1. Active participation at 80 per cent or more of the lectures is required, and will be graded Pass (G) or Fail (U). Active participation means preparing the assignments, reading the literature, seeking to answer the questions and engaging in discussions. If a student fails to meet the baseline requirement, s/he will have to write a short memo for each lecture where s/he failed to participate.
2. The memo is mandatory and will be graded Pass (G) or Fail (U).
3. The short essay with oral presentation is mandatory and will be graded 0-20. *Note* that if the essay is not submitted on time, it will be *graded half* the number of credit points which should have been given if submitted on time.
4. The written examination at the end of the course is mandatory and consists of two questions, based on the course literature and the issues raised during the lectures. Each answer is graded 0-10, i.e. up to 20 credit points together. Students will not have access to any literature, notes or documents during the written exam, except to a clean version of the pdf with relevant legal instruments as used during the written exam.

In order to pass the course, all these parts must be completed. The maximum total score is 40 points.

Note that in case of re-examination, the student will have to inform the course administrator in advance of his/her intention to do the exam.

7 Registration

In order to partake in the course students must register via email (EL@juridicum.su.se) between 19 and 21 August.

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8 Grade Criteria

The following criteria apply to all forms of graded examination (according to the 7-point ECTS grading scale):

A
An excellently structured reasoning with a clear focus on the central aspects and with a high relevance in light of the questions posed; extensive reference to legal sources and the correct use of relevant facts; great ability to engage in abstract reasoning and to make an independent assessment of the problems, including critical reflection.

B
A very well structured reasoning with a clear focus on the central aspects and with a high relevance in the light of the questions posed; reference to legal sources and the correct use of relevant facts; great ability to engage in abstract reasoning and to make an independent assessment of the problems, including critical reflection.

C
A well-structured reasoning with a focus on the central aspects and with relevance in the light of the questions posed; reference to legal sources and the correct use of relevant facts; ability to engage in abstract reasoning and to make independent and balanced assessment of the problems.

D
A structured and relevant reasoning, which covers some of the central aspects in light of the questions posed; reference to legal sources and the correct use of relevant facts; signs of an ability to engage in abstract reasoning and to make an independent assessment of the problems.

E
A transparent reasoning which observes some aspects that are central to the questions posed; some reference to legal sources and relevant facts; signs of an ability to make an independent assessment of the problems.

Fx
A reasoning which observes aspects that are central to the questions posed but insufficient reference to legal sources and the relevant facts and/or no signs of an ability to make an independent assessment of the problems.

F
A reproduction of disjointed facts with insufficient reasoning.

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9 Special Pedagogical Support

Stockholm University provides special pedagogical support to students with documented long-term disabilities. For example, a student may be eligible for alternative forms of examination, such as extended time limits for examinations. If a student intends to apply for alternative forms of examination, s/he should inform the course administrator via email well in advance of the examination and specify what kind of alternative examination is requested. Should the application be submitted later than 3 (three) weeks prior to the examination, there is no guarantee that the alternative form of examination can be granted.

For further information, students should ask the course administrator at the beginning of the course.

10 Course Evaluation

All students are encouraged to fill in an electronic course evaluation at the end of the course. The course evaluation is an important feed-back from the students, and a means to assess the students' appreciation of the course. It is used for developing the course, teaching methods and for determining the quality of the course.
The electronic form will be available via *Athena* in the last weeks of the course

11 Reception hours

Course director:

Prof. Jonas Ebbesson	Room: C962	On appointment and
Email: jonas.ebbesson@juridicum.su.se		in relation to teaching

Course administrator:

Nägin Chater-Sahab	Room C972	On appointment
Email: EL@juridicum.su.se		Tuesdays and Thursdays 13-15