Stockholm University

16 September 2025

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

COURSE OUTLINE – AUTUMN TERM 2025

Welcome to *Cross-cutting Issues in Environmental Law* at the Department of Law, Stockholm University.

1 Purpose and Content of the Course

The course *Cross-cutting Issues in Environmental Law* is the second course of the Master Programme in Environmental Law. It addresses four interrelated themes in depth, with particular transboundary dimensions, where environmental law is challenged by either the impact of other areas of law or by new thinking and understanding of environmental and social issues:

- environmental law, trade and corporate responsibility,
- environmental law, climate and energy,
- environmental law and human rights, and
- environmental law and social-ecological resilience.

Cross-cutting Issues in Environmental Law builds on the course *Transboundary Environmental Law* (TEL) and requires more of independent work, with more active search for literature and relevant legal materials by the participants themselves. The participants are also expected to prepare for short oral presentations at lectures.

Cross-cutting Issues in Environmental Law includes writing exercises, with drafting of written documents for a mock procedure, and writing an essay related to one of the themes of the course. In this respect, the course is intended to prepare the participants for writing their final theses for the Master degree.

Just like TEL, in addition to teaching existing legal structures, principles and approaches to environmental matters in transboundary contexts, this course aims at encouraging critical legal reasoning among the students, i.e. at reviewing, assessing and questioning structures, principles, institutions and concepts.

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The expected learning outcomes of the course are set out in the syllabus, adopted by the Department of Law.

2 Overview

This 10-weeks course consists of lectures, where students are expected to actively participate, the writing of an essay, with defence and opposition, a mock procedure, and a final examination in writing. The essay, the mock case and the final examination in writing are parts of the examination, and are either graded with Pass (G)/Fail (U) or credit points. In addition, active participation at lectures is required, as set out below.

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

3 Teaching

Lectures: While labelled lectures, the lectures will regularly have a *seminar* style. 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. To pass the course, active participation in at least 80 percent of the lectures (indicated "80 PERCENT") is required. Active participation means that students are expected to have prepared for the lectures by reading the relevant literature, trying to answer the questions and being ready to engage in discussions about them.

The written examination is not limited to what is found in the literature. *Anything* related to cross-cutting issues in environmental law that has been discussed at *any lecture* 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 assignment and the mock procedure.

All lectures are expected to take place on site, ie at the campus. In exceptional cases, lectures will be given on line.

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Mock procedure: As part of this course and as part of the examination, the participants will prepare petitions and oral arguments in groups for a mock procedure concerning one of the themes for the course, as set out in specific instructions.

Written assignment: As a part of the course and the examination, each participant will write an *essay* of 3.500-4.000 words (8-10 pages). The topic of the essay should address matters within one or more of the four interrelated themes defining this course, as set out in Section 1. Each participant will defend the thesis and also act as opponent for the thesis of another participant. This part of the course amounts to up to 20 of 40 credit points of the examination.

4 Literature

There will be no book or compendium for this course. The literature will consist of articles, reports, case-law and other documents, as set out in the reading assignments for the lectures. Students will also be asked to search for relevant literature.

5 Social Events

A "Midwinter get-together" is planned for December. Depending on the interest of students, it is also possible to organise other social events on site or elsewhere during the course, on legal matters relating to the environment, or something else.

6 Forms of Examination

The course is examined through the following parts:

1. The essay, including defence and opposition, is mandatory and will be graded 0-20 credits. *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.
2. The mock trial is mandatory and will be graded Pass (G) or Fail (U).
3. The final written examination at the end of the course is mandatory and amounts to up to 20 credit points all together. *Note that s*tudents will not

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have access to any literature, notes or documents during the written exam, except to a clean version of the pdf with key legal acts and instruments used during the course.

In order to pass the course, all these parts must be completed. The combined credits for the essay and for the written exam – with a maximum total score of 40 points – are the basis for the final grading of the course.

In addition to these examining elements, active participation at 80 per cent or more of the lectures (indicated “80 PERCENT”) is required. 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. Active participation means preparing the assignments, reading the literature, trying to answer the questions and being ready to engage in discussions about them.

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

No specific registration is required for this course. Being part of the Master programme in environmental law, all students approved to the programme are approved to this course.

8 Grade Criteria

The following are the grade criteria (according to the 7-point ECTS grading scale) for all forms of examination:

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.

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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.

9 Special Pedagogical Support

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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 C860	On appointment
Email: EL@juridicum.su.se		Tuesdays and Thursdays 13-15