

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

International Climate Change Law

Reference	LLM028	Version	4
Created	August 2023	SCQF Level	SCQF 11
Approved	February 2019	SCQF Points	15
Amended	August 2023	ECTS Points	7.5

Aims of Module

Climate change is one of the major challenges of our time and adds considerable stress to our societies and to the environment. The main objective of the module is to address the principal national, regional and international legal rules and policies organised around the mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Learning Outcomes for Module

On completion of this module, students are expected to be able to:

- 1 Critically appraise the evolution of international environmental law and the role of legal instruments and approaches to mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- 2 Critically analyse the roles of key actors in global climate change law ranging from governments, businesses, ecosystems and the environment (both voiceless), scientists, societies, lawyers, policymakers, and NGOs.
- 3 Critically appraise, as a result of climate change, the significant body of climate change cases against governments, companies, and individuals which have been decided globally.
- 4 Appreciate the overlaps and comprehend the complex relationship between climate change, human rights, sustainable development, intergenerational equality, environmental justice and institutional change.

Indicative Module Content

The Module initially provides an introduction to the environmental, economic and ethical dimensions of climate change; it then encompasses the nexus between international law and climate change; after examining Treaty-based law making rules and techniques, it appraises the evolution of the United Nations Climate Regime; the architecture of the Framework Convention on Climate Change is examined, and its legal status is critically evaluated; the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement are appraised; climate governance beyond the UN climate change regime is critically examined; key legal cases in international climate change litigation are critically reviewed; the module concludes by identifying the distinctive features and assessing the effectiveness of climate change law.

Module Delivery

This module is based on lecture notes and other learning materials and problem exercises available on the RGU Virtual Campus/RGU network/face-to-face classes.

Indicative Student Workload

	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	36	36
Non-Contact Hours	114	114
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	150	150
<i>Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body</i>		

ASSESSMENT PLAN

If a major/minor model is used and box is ticked, % weightings below are indicative only.

Component 1

Type:	Coursework	Weighting:	100%	Outcomes Assessed:	1, 2, 3, 4
Description:	Distance Learning: Forum postings (Weighting: 100%) On Campus: One coursework essay (Weighting: 30%)				

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR

Explanatory Text

The calculation of the overall grade for this module is based on 100% weighting of C1. An overall minimum grade D is required to pass the module.

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
A	The student needs to achieve an A grade in C1.
B	The student needs to achieve a B grade in C1.
C	The student needs to achieve a C grade in C1.
D	The student needs to achieve a D grade in C1.
E	The student needs to achieve an E grade in C1.
F	The student needs to achieve an F grade in C1.
NS	Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination

Module Requirements

Prerequisites for Module	None.
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	None.

INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1 BELL, S., MCGILLIVRAY, D., PEDERSEN, O.W., LEES, E., and STOKES, E., 2017. *Environmental Law*. 9th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2 BIRNIE, P.W., BOYLE, A. and REDGWELL, C., 2009. *International law and the environment*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 3 BODANSKY, D., BRUNNEE, J., RAJAMANI, L. 2017. *International Climate Change Law*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- 4 DESSLER, A. 2016. *Introduction to Modern Climate Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 5 ISENBERG, A.C. (Ed.) 2014. *The Oxford Handbook of Environmental History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- 6 MAYER, B. 2018. *The International Law on Climate Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press