

LA363-15 Climate Change and Law

20/21

Department

School of Law

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Sam Adelman

Credit value

15

Assessment

100% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Global heating is the biggest threat facing all species on Earth in this century and beyond. This module is based on the climate science of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and examines law, ethics, politics and economics of the climate crisis and the possibilities of climate justice in the Anthropocene.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

Climate change is one of the major problems confronting humanity in the twenty-first century. It affects everybody to a greater or lesser degree and its impacts will intensify unless we find ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As such, this may be the most important module you take during your degree. This module examines the ways in which law can be used to address the problem as well as its limitations. The module is based on the climate science of the Intergovernmental Panel on climate change and will examine the politics and economics of climate change in addition to the law. We will examine the role of international agreements such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as regional initiatives in the EU and domestic legislation. Amongst the questions that the module addresses is whether it is more important to seek global or local solutions. The module examines the impact of climate change on developing countries and alternative perspectives on nature such as Andean cosmologies and local knowledge such as that of the Arctic Inuit peoples.

The module will examine the possibilities of using a range of law from human rights and

international environmental law to international criminal law and tort. We will look at the role of carbon markets, carbon taxes and other ways of reducing emissions.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

- The Anthropocene
- Climate science and Earth System science
- The economics of global heating and the limits to growth; planetary boundaries
- The legal framework for global environmental governance including:

Principles of international environmental law

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The Paris Agreement

- Sustainable development
- Law as problem or solution
- Climate displacement and migration
- Human rights, including indigenous rights
- Carbon markets and taxes
- Climate justice

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the roles of theory to the practice of law and to scientific, social, political and economic problems in relation to environmental issues and global warming; evaluate the logic and coherence of rival arguments; identify assumptions; follow extended trains of argument; understand the relations between law and non-legal forms of thought, and the practical implications of theory.
- Develop written and oral advocacy skills in the analysis, preparation and presentation of legal theory. Experience and practice the planning, negotiation and delivery of theoretical and doctrinal legal, scientific and social scientific analysis including research, drafting/writing, and oral advocacy. Use a variety of information and communication technologies in researching, drafting and presenting class work. Work effectively with others and to organise collective responses to legal theoretical issues; and understand the significance of developing appropriate team-working practices and behaviours.
- Research the role of legal theory in relation to these subjects, Investigate the legal theoretical problems for particular constituencies, Understand the contextual operation and implementation of legal theory, human rights and development, Evaluate and analyse the significance of legal theory in the context of law, international development, globalisation and human rights. Reflect upon their experience and develop alternative and improved responses to identified problems where necessary.
- Participate in examples of oral advocacy in lecture sessions. Observe the professional

- and ethical responsibilities relevant to globalisation, the law and the environment
- Demonstrate advanced written and oral presentational skills

Indicative reading list

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

International

This module explores the impact of climate change internationally, and the possibilities of using international and human rights law to encourage its reduction.

Subject specific skills

No subject specific skills defined for this module.

Transferable skills

No transferable skills defined for this module.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 2 hours (72%)
Seminars	7 sessions of 1 hour (28%)
Total	25 hours

Private study description

No private study requirements defined for this module.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group B1

	Weighting	Study time
Online Examination	100%	
Students will answer one question from a list given.		

- Online examination: No Answerbook required

Feedback on assessment

Generic feedback will be provided via Moodle, and students can request one to one feedback in October.

[Past exam papers for LA363](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- UIBA-MN34 Law and Business Four Year (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 3 of MN34 Law and Business Studies Four Year (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 4 of MN34 Law and Business Studies Four Year (Qualifying Degree)
- ULAA-M108 Undergraduate Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 2 of M108 Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
 - Year 2 of M108 Law (Year Abroad) (Qualifying Degree)
- Year 3 of UIBA-MN31 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies
- UIBA-MN32 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies
 - Year 3 of MN32 Law and Business Studies (Four-Year)
 - Year 4 of MN32 Law and Business Studies (Four-Year)
- UIBA-MN37 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies (Qualifying Degree) with Intercalated Year
 - Year 2 of MN37 Law and Business Studies (Qualifying Degree) with Intercalated Year
 - Year 4 of MN37 Law and Business Studies (Qualifying Degree) with Intercalated Year
 - Year 5 of MN37 Law and Business Studies (Qualifying Degree) with Intercalated Year
- UIBA-MN35 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (3+1)
 - Year 3 of MN35 Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (3+1)
 - Year 4 of MN35 Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (3+1)
- UIBA-MN36 Undergraduate Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (4+1)
 - Year 4 of MN36 Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (4+1)
 - Year 5 of MN36 Law and Business Studies with Intercalated Year (4+1)

- Year 2 of ULAA-M113 Undergraduate Law with Humanities (4 Year) (Qualifying Degree)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 5 of ULAA-ML35 BA in Law and Sociology (Qualifying Degree) (with Intercalated year)

This module is Option list E for:

- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law