

# LA960-20 Climate Change and Development

**24/25**

**Department**

School of Law

**Level**

Taught Postgraduate Level

**Module leader**

Sam Adelman

**Credit value**

20

**Module duration**

8 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

Global warming is perhaps the single biggest contemporary problem facing humanity – not least because it exacerbates poverty. It affects everyone, everywhere. Developing countries, which are least responsible for causing the problem, have fewest resources for adaptation and mitigation, are being hit first and worst.

The module addresses the science and economics of climate change as the basis for analyses of the limits and potential of the law in addressing the problem. We will discuss the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto protocol, the Paris Agreement, relevant principles of international environmental law, and national and regional strategies for dealing with climate change. We will debate the ethics of climate justice – what rich countries, rapidly developing countries and less developed states should do what, and why – the geopolitics of global warming, and the ethics and legal framework for possible geoengineering solutions. The module contains case studies on small island developing states in danger of being inundated by rising sea levels, the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage, the REDD+ framework on deforestation, human rights, and climate displaced persons.

[Module web page](#)

## Module aims

The primary aim of the course is to provide students with a systematic understanding of the law, politics and economics of global warming. The relevant science and economics will be explained in language understandable to non-experts in these areas.

A second aim is to provide an understanding of the possibilities and limits of the law.

## 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 change and development
- Sustainable development
- Climate science and Earth System science
- The economics of global heating
- International environmental law and governance
- 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 acceptable level of knowledge of climate science and environmental economics and the impact of global warming on the global South.
- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the interactive roles of applying law to social, political and economic problems; evaluate the logic and empirical claims 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 climate change law and international environment law, the global economy and related activities.
- Experience and practice the planning, negotiation and delivery of climate change law environment law, economic and legal analysis related activities 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 identified climate change and global environment issues

- Understand the significance of developing appropriate team-working practices and behaviours.
- Research the role of law in relation to these subjects
- Investigate the legal problems and implications of studying environment law and the global economy for particular constituencies
- Understand the contextual operation and implementation of climate change and environmental issues, human rights and development and the practical opportunities, processes, requirements and constraints affecting the pursuit and promotion of development and human rights projects
- Evaluate and analyse the significance of practical problems in the context of law, international development 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 climate change and environmental law
- Demonstrate advanced written and oral presentational skills

## Indicative reading list

- Adelman, Sam (2010), "Rethinking human rights: the impact of the climate change on the dominant discourse" in Humphreys, S. (ed.), *Climate Change and Human Rights* (Cambridge University Press: Cambridge)
- Adelman, Sam (2013) "Rio+20: sustainable injustice in a time of crises", *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment* Vol. 4 No. 1, March 2013, 6-31
- Barstow Macgraw, Daniel & Hawke, Lisa D. (2007) in Bodansky, Brunnee and Hey (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Environmental Law* (Oxford University Press: Oxford)
- Bosselman, Klaus (2013) "Sustainable Development" in Alam, S. et al. *Routledge Handbook of International Environmental Law* (Routledge: Abingdon)
- Eckersley, Robyn (2009), "Just Carbon Trading?" in Moss, Jeremy (ed.) *Climate Change and Social Justice* (Melbourne University Press: Melbourne)
- European Commission "The EU Emissions Trading System"
- Gilbertson, Tamra and Reyes, Oscar (2009), *Carbon Trading: How it works and why it fails* (Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation)
- Harris, Paul (2009), *World Ethics and Climate Change: From International to Global Justice* (Edinburgh University Press: Edinburgh)
- Higgins, Polly (2010) *Eradicating Ecocide* (Shepherd-Walwyn: London)
- Higgins, Polly (2012) *Earth is Our Business: Changing the rules of the game* (Shepherd-Walwyn: London)
- Higgins, Polly; Short, Damien and South, Nigel (2012): Protecting the planet after Rio — the need for a crime of ecocide, *Criminal Justice Matters* 90:1, 4-5
- Hopwood, Bill; Mellor, Mary and O'Brien, Geoff (2005) "Sustainable Development: Mapping Different Approaches", *Sustainable Development* 13, 38-52
- Humphreys, Stephen (2010) "Competing claims: human rights and climate harms" in Humphreys, S. (ed.), *Climate Change and Human Rights* (Cambridge University Press: Cambridge)
- Kettune, Marianne & ten Brink, Patrick (2012) "Nature, green economy and sustainable

development: The outcomes of UN Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development", Nature Conservation 2:1-6

McAdam, Jane (2012) Climate Change, Forced Migration and International Law (Oxford University Press: Oxford)

Seo, Kihwan and Rodriguez, Natalia (2012) "Land Grab, Food Security and Climate Change: A Vicious Circle in the Global South" in Chhetri, Netra (ed.) Human and Social Dimensions of Climate Change (InTech).

Zetter, Roger (2010) "Protecting People Displaced by Climate Change: Some Conceptual Challenges" in McAdam, J. (ed) Climate Change and Displacement: Multidisciplinary Perspectives (Hart Publishing: Oxford)

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

## **Subject specific skills**

Subject knowledge and understanding:

Demonstrate an acceptable level of knowledge of climate science and environmental economics and the impact of global warming on the global South.

Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the interactive roles of applying law to social, political and economic problems; evaluate the logic and empirical claims 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.

Cognitive Skills:

Research the role of law in relation to these subjects,

Investigate the legal problems and implications of studying environment law and the global economy for particular constituencies

Understand the contextual operation and implementation of climate change and environmental issues, human rights and development and the practical opportunities, processes, requirements and constraints affecting the pursuit and promotion of development and human rights projects

Evaluate and analyse the significance of practical problems in the context of law, international development and human rights

Reflect upon their experience and develop alternative and improved responses to identified problems where necessary.

Subject-Specific/Professional Skills:

Participate in examples of oral advocacy in lecture sessions

Observe the professional and ethical responsibilities relevant to climate change and environmental law Demonstrate advanced written and oral presentational skills

## **Transferable skills**

Key Skills:

Develop written and oral advocacy skills in the analysis, preparation and presentation of climate change law and international environment law, the global economy and related activities.

Experience and practice the planning, negotiation and delivery of climate change law environment law, economic and legal analysis related activities 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 identified climate change and global environment issues; and  
Understand the significance of developing appropriate team-working practices and behaviours.

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## Study

### Study time

| Type          | Required                    |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Seminars      | 24 sessions of 1 hour (12%) |
| Private study | 176 hours (88%)             |
| Total         | 200 hours                   |

### Private study description

No private study requirements defined for this module.

### Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

### Assessment group A1

|                                      | Weighting | Study time | Eligible for self-certification |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------|
| Assessed Essay<br>A 4000 word essay. | 100%      |            | No                              |

### Feedback on assessment

Formal written feedback via Tabula and informal discussions.

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## Availability

## Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 1 of THRA-D4A1 Postgraduate Taught Environmental Bioscience in a Changing Climate
- Year 1 of THRA-D4A3 Postgraduate Taught Food Security
- Year 1 of THRA-D4A2 Postgraduate Taught Sustainable Crop Production: Agronomy for the 21st Century

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TLAS-M1M2 LLM International Development Law and Human Rights
- Year 1 of TIMA-L981 Postgraduate Social Science Research
- Year 1 of TLAA-M3PJ Postgraduate Taught Advanced Legal Studies

This module is Core option list B for:

- Year 1 of TLAS-M1M2 LLM International Development Law and Human Rights
- Year 1 of TLAA-M3PJ Postgraduate Taught Advanced Legal Studies

This module is Option list A for:

- TLAS-M1M2 LLM International Development Law and Human Rights
  - Year 1 of M1M2 International Development Law and Human Rights
  - Year 3 of M1M2 International Development Law and Human Rights
- TLAA-M3PJ Postgraduate Taught Advanced Legal Studies
  - Year 1 of M3PJ Advanced Legal Studies
  - Year 3 of M3PJ Advanced Legal Studies

This module is Option list C for:

- TPOS-M9PE Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with NTU Singapore)
  - Year 1 of M91F Globalisation and Development (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91L International Development (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91B International Political Economy (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91G International Security (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91K Political and Legal Theory (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91J United States Foreign Policy (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 2 of M91L International Development (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 2 of M91B International Political Economy (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 2 of M91C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - NTU)
- TPOS-M9PP Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universität Konstanz, Germany)
  - Year 1 of M92L International Development (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92B International Political Economy (Double Degree - Konstanz)

- Year 1 of M92C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of M92D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of M92E International Relations (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of M92G International Security (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of M92K Political and Legal Theory (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of M92H Public Policy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92B International Political Economy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92E International Relations (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92G International Security (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92K Political and Legal Theory (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92H Public Policy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PT MA in International Development
- Year 2 of TPOS-M1P8 Postgraduate Taught International Politics and East Asia
- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PS Postgraduate Taught Political and Legal Theory
- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PQ Postgraduate Taught United States Foreign Policy