Introduction to Environmental Law
SYLLABUS – PART 1 - WINTER 2023
DCC 3107A

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Office Hours: By Appointment
CLASS: Thursdays 7:00-10:00 pm

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will present an introductory overview of environmental law including environmental law principles and their underlying philosophies. This will lead to a critical approach to the role of environmental law in environmental protection.

While the course will endeavour to give a thorough grounding in environmental law, it is nevertheless an introductory course and does not attempt to cover the full breadth of issues that can and do arise in environmental law.

II. OBJECTIVE

This course reviews various aspects of the application of the laws that protect and manage the environment in Canada. In doing so, we will examine various approaches on how to protect the environment and regulate human interactions with it. This includes leading environmental principles and concepts, command and control, planning and legal advocacy.

In addition, the course will also introduce some key federal laws that apply to various environmental issues, such as the Constitution and environmental protection laws. The course will also explore the difference between criminal and civil liabilities as it applies to the environment. Students will also get an introduction to the skill of statutory and case law (i.e. judicial decisions) interpretation, as well as public advocacy.

It would be impossible to cover all (or even most) environmental laws or approaches in the time available. We will strike a balance between exposing students to the main topics of environmental law while spending enough time on each one to adequately comprehend it.
III. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

*Short Bio:*
Alex Ikejiani is an Environmental Lawyer and a Certified Specialist in Environmental Law. He works for the Department of Justice, Canada, in Ottawa. Mr. Ikejian’s 24-year law practice primarily focuses on environmental law, regulatory prosecution, oceans, and resource management law. In 2016, the University of Ottawa appointed him as an Adjunct Environmental Law professor. Mr. Ikejiani focuses on environmental law principles, policy, and climate change in this capacity. He has taught courses in Common Law, Civil Law and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. Mr. Ikejiani is a contributing author to the book entitled “Environment in the Courtroom.” Mr. Ikejiani is a board member of the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sports and Learning for a Sustainable Future. Professional designations and education include the University of Manitoba, Political Science 94’, and Dalhousie Law School 97’. Mr. Ikejiani is a practicing member of the Ontario Law Society and a member of the Nova Scotia Bar Society.

IV. TEACHING METHODS

The course will be taught through a mix of class lectures and readings. Students will be exposed to a diversity of perspectives and expertise and will learn experientially as much as possible. Active student participation is encouraged. You can access all of the relevant information for this course on the Virtual Campus (called Brightspace) accessible on uoZone.

For assistance accessing the website, contact 613-562-5800 ext. 6555. The website for this course will open during the first week of September. Important announcements will happen through Brightspace, so be sure to check it regularly and customize your notifications (in the Brightspace settings) in a way that is most helpful to you. We will be using in-person lectures and Zoom for our virtual meetings. Please create a free Zoom account using your uOttawa email. A schedule for class lectures and preparations will be detailed in Part 2 of the syllabus.

V. COURSE MATERIALS

- Jamie Benidickson: Environmental Law, 5th ed. Toronto: Irwin Law, 2019. (Available to order or online at the Uottawa library website).

- Allan E. Ingelson, *Environment in the Court Room*, University of Calgary Press, Calgary, 2019 (Available online on the university library website, and at https://press.ucalgary.ca/books/9781552389850/
VI. EVALUATION

Class Participation: (10%)
Students are encouraged to participate actively in the course, which includes:

- the readings assigned;
- participating in live and virtual classes (i.e. asking questions);
- contributing constructively to discussions (offering your opinion).

Please note that students will not be penalized for unforeseen absences (e.g. illness, family emergency). Email the professor in advance (if possible) explaining why you are absent.

Students will be invited (optional) to self-evaluate their participation at the end of the course, so they should keep track of their attendance and contributions. The professor will make the final determination but will take the student’s evaluation into consideration.

Essay Paper (40%):
The purpose of the essay paper is to allow students to explore environmental issues from a broader perspective. Students are required to select one of four essay topics that will be provided in Part II of the syllabus on which to prepare their essay.

Take-home Final Exam (50%):
The final exam will consist mainly of essay questions. The examination will be based on topics covered in class during the entire semester. The date and time will be announced.

VII. LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted by their due date and time. All late submissions will be immediately docked 5%, with an additional 5% for each subsequent day late to a maximum of 3 days, including weekends. After 3 days all outstanding assignments will be given a zero (0%) grade. Exceptions are made only for illness or other serious situations deemed as such by the Civil Law faculty. University regulations require all absences from exams and all late submissions due to illness to be supported by a medical certificate.

VIII. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are subject to university regulations pertaining to academic integrity. It is the student’s responsibility to understand and comply with the regulations. Please consult the website to familiarize yourselves with the rules and your responsibilities: http://web5.uottawa.ca/mcs-smc/academicintegrity/home.php
IX. STUDENTS IN NEED OF LEARNING SUPPORTS

Students who require accommodations or academic support because of a physical or learning disability, or any condition that affects their ability to learn, are advised to register with ACCESS SERVICE:

ACCESS SERVICE
55 Laurier Avenue East,
3rd Floor, Room 3172 (DMS)
Ottawa ON Canada K1N 6N5
Tel.: 613-562-5976
Fax: 613-562-5159
Email: adapt@uottawa.ca
Web: www.sass.uottawa.ca/access/

Students can meet with an Access Service specialist to identify their individual needs and to discuss appropriate strategies. All information provided to Access Services and all accommodations received remain strictly confidential.