ES/LW 351 INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW: A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

IES Abroad Freiburg

European Union Program

DESCRIPTION:

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to principles and mechanisms of international environmental law, examining how legal tools and governance structures address environmental challenges at global, European and national levels. The course is divided into two complementary parts. The first part lays the groundwork for understanding international environmental law and governance, focusing on key principles, legal instruments, and the roles of major actors such as national governments, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations. Special attention is paid to the European Union's pioneering environmental regulations and ambitious green strategies as well as Germany's national and subnational environmental regulations, illustrating the interplay of governance efforts across different levels. The second part applies these foundational concepts and principles to case studies, offering an in-depth analysis of the challenges associated with formulating and implementing international and EU environmental law. Students will examine legal responses to pressing issues such as biodiversity loss, wildlife conservation, marine protection and sustainable forest management.

Designed for students without a legal background, the course presents key legal concepts and principles in a clear and accessible manner. Students will not only gain a strong understanding of international and European environmental regulations but also develop the analytical skills needed to critically analyze case studies. Additionally, students will enrich their learning experience through interactions with EU officials and national experts during course-related trips, offering firsthand insights into the environmental initiatives at both the EU and national levels.

This course is embedded in the EU Program: Law, Economics and Politics, which is an interdisciplinary program focusing on key actors, complex policymaking processes, and multilevel governance structures within Europe, as well as the EU's dynamic role in the international system. Course-related trips are a distinctive feature of the EU Program and provide a unique opportunity to connect in-class academic learning with practical experience. As part of the broader EU Program, students will visit key EU institutions in Brussels, Strasbourg and national institutions in other European cities, where they engage directly with policymakers, legislators, and civil society actors in structured meetings that provide firsthand insight into EU decision-making processes at the European and Member State levels. These lectures offer invaluable exposure to EU decision-making processes and bring to life the complex realities of environmental governance.

In this context, by focusing on the EU's pioneering role in environmental legislation and its ambitious green transition strategies, the course offers students critical insights into how the EU shapes global norms and responds to transnational challenges. In connecting classroom learning with direct engagement with experts at European institutions, the course strongly supports the program's commitment to experiential learning and provides students with a nuanced and practical understanding of the EU's environmental leadership. For more details, please see the course-related trip descriptions below and the EU Program's webpage: https://www.iesabroad.org/programs/freiburg-european-union-politics-law-economics

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

ADDITIONAL COST: None

PREREQUISITES: One college level course related to international relations, environmental studies, or environmental politics.

METHODS OF PRESENTATION: discussion of readings, case studies, group work and presentations; talks by academics and practitioners including meetings with policymakers and other relevant actors during course-related trips.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Participation – 10%
- Midterm – 20%
- Group work and role-play – 15%
    - legal position 5%
    - role-play 10%
- Critical writing assignment and presentation – 30%
    - 20% critical writing assignment
    - 10% presentation
- Final exam - 25%

Course Participation:
Students are expected to complete all assigned readings and actively contribute thoughtful insights during in-class discussions. There are also recommended readings for each session, which are intended for students who wish to deepen their understanding of the session topic. Questions based on the required readings will be posted on Moodle prior to each session, and students are required to respond to them. These components will collectively determine the class participation grade. Participation also extends to meetings during course-related trips as well as to local field trips in Freiburg.

Midterm Exam
(90 minutes) The midterm (session 8) will be held after the end of the first part of the course and focus on the contents of the required readings, lectures and the in-class discussions. It will consist of two essay questions, one of them may include reflection on the local field trip meeting. More detailed guidelines and a grading rubric will be provided on the course Moodle page.

Group work and role-play
In this assignment, students will participate in a role-play exercise based on a fictional case study related to the topics covered in previous sessions. Topics may include deforestation, pollution, or protection of biodiversity. For instance, a renewable energy company establishing a wind power plant in the Black Forest where some special bird species

might be under protection. The course instructor will provide the case study details and general prompts for each role in Session 8. Each group must develop arguments that reflect the interests and perspectives of their assigned role, using the principles of environmental law covered in the first part of the course and relevant case law discussed thus far. Students will be organized into small groups of 3-4 members, each representing different actors in environmental law and their respective interests.

The allocation of groups and roles will be determined by a random draw at the end of Session 10. One group will represent a non-governmental actor (e.g., an NGO), another group will represent a governmental actor or a State or a company, and the last group will act as the judge of the competent court. Since this exercise consists of a simulated trial, students will be required to construct a legal argument defending their cause and the interests they represent. They will then present their arguments before the court, which will be responsible for resolving the dispute. Therefore, students will need to meet outside of class to conduct research and prepare their arguments together as a group.

Each group is encouraged to ensure that the oral presentation of their argumentation is divided into multiple parts so that each student has the opportunity to speak. Additionally, the prepared argument must be written and submitted to the instructor in advance. While the group of students representing the judges will deliver a verdict at the end of the pleadings, the evaluation will focus solely on the quality of the arguments presented by each student. Additional guidelines and a detailed grading rubric will be made available on Moodle.

Critical Writing Assignment and Presentation

Each student will complete a critical assignment of 2,500 – 3,000 words (20%) and present their findings in class (10%). Students may choose to write about either a general principle of environmental law or a protected species (with the exception of wolves and whales). Students are expected to explore historical and legal origins of either the general principle or the protection of an endangered species, examine examples of applications or relevant case law both from European and international environmental laws, and provide a critical analysis of its effectiveness and implications in different EU Member States.

Regardless of the chosen topic, students are expected to demonstrate their analytical skills to argue and defend a legal position in environmental law effectively. The critical writing assignment is due by Session 15, while the presentations will be held during Session 17. Additional guidelines and a detailed grading rubric will be made available on Moodle.

Final Exam

The final exam (Session 19) will be comprehensive in nature. In 120 minutes, students will write two essays covering topics from the entire course. Questions will also require reflection on the course related trip meetings. Detailed instructions on the exam content will be provided in advance, with additional guidelines available on the course Moodle page.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- define key concepts of international and European environmental law;
- demonstrate knowledge of international and European governance structures regarding environmental law;
- identify various actors at international, European, and national levels that are involved in climate protection and the legal frameworks they operate within;
- construct well-reasoned legal arguments based on a case study and its respective legal framework;
- develop a comparative perspective on existing environmental regulations at national, European and international levels;
- critically analyze key challenges of the legal instruments, assessing their strengths, weaknesses, and effectiveness;
- explain the impact of international law, with a particular focus on the European Union's environmental regulations on national law and policies.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
All IES courses require attendance and participation. Attendance is mandatory per IES Abroad policy. Any unexcused absence will incur a penalty on your final course grade (1 absence - 1%, 2nd absence -2%, 3rd absence – 3%). Any student who has more than three (3) unexcused absences will receive an "F" as the final grade in the course. Any student who misses more than 25% of a course, whether the absences are excused or are unexcused, will receive an "F" as the final grade in the course. Absences due to sickness, religious observances, and family emergencies may be excusable at the discretion of the Center Director. In the case of an excused absence, it is the student's responsibility to inform the Academic Dean of the absence with an Official Excused Absence Form, as well as any other relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's note), and to keep a record thereof. The absence form must be turned in as soon as possible before the class, in the case of a planned absence, or immediately upon return to the Center, in the case of an unplanned absence, in order for the absence to be considered excused. It is also the student's responsibility to inform the professor of the missed class. Students can collect and submit the Official Excused Absence Form from the office of the Academic Dean.

TESTS OR PRESENTATIONS MISSED DURING UNEXCUSED ABSENCES CANNOT BE MADE UP!

ASSIGNMENTS NOT HANDED IN ON THE DUE DATE WILL BE SUBJECT TO A 3% PENALTY PER DAY POST-DUE DATE (with the exception of students who have an excused absence).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE:
Regardless of the quality of work, plagiarism is punishable with a 'failing grade' in the class. Plagiarism may be broadly defined as "copying of materials from sources, without acknowledging having done so, claiming other's ideas as one's own without proper reference to them, and buying materials such as essays/exams."

Updated information on your course and readings, including additional readings from journalistic articles, can be found on the Moodle platform at https://moodle.iesabroad.org/login/index.php

Use of Unauthorized Materials: The use of any books, papers, notes, Internet search results, AI-generated text, or other materials for reference during closed book examinations or other academic exercises unless specifically allowed by the instructor.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments and Readings

Part 1: Actors, concepts, and fundamentals of International Environmental Law		
Session 1	**Introduction: Understanding International Environmental Law and its Global Significance** • Definition of environmental law • Key objectives of environmental law in global and regional governance • Main limitations of international environmental law (IEL) in terms of enforcement and jurisdiction	Required readings • Rajamani and Peel, "International environmental Law: changing context, emerging trends, and expanding frontiers," pp. 1-30. (30 pages) • Techera, Lindley, Scott and Telesetsky, "An introduction to international environmental law," pp. 4-8. (4 pages) Recommended readings: • Hunter, "*International Environmental Law:*" https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/publications/insights-on-law-and-society/volume-19/insights-vol--19---issue-1/international-environmental-law/ • Rajamani and Peel, "Origin and History," pp. 50-66. (16 pages) • Sand and Peel, "The Environment and International Society: Issues, Concepts and Definitions," pp. 3-20. (17 pages)
Session 2	**General principles of International Environmental Law (IEL)- From Foundations to Practice** • Foundational principles of IEL • Historical evolution of these principles • Reflection of principles in international treaties and customary law	Required readings: • Nyekwere, Okogbule and Agwor, "Understanding the Principles of International Environmental Law and Their Reflections in International Environmental Treaties and Non-Binding Soft Law Instruments." (24 pages) Recommended readings: • American Bar Association, "10 Key Principles in International Environmental Law:" https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/publications/insights-on-law-and-society/volume-19/insights-vol--19---issue-1/10-key-principles-in-international-environmental-law/ • Techera, Lindley, Scott and Telesetsky, "Principles, standards and voluntary commitments in international environmental law," pp 15-29. (14 pages)

Session 3	**Actors of IEL I: Governmental and institutional actors** *What roles do nation-states and international organizations play in shaping and enforcing IEL?* • Role of nation-states and international organizations in shaping and enforcing IEL • Contributions of international organizations like the UN and specialized environmental bodies to global environmental governance	Required readings: • Rajamani and Peel, "The State," pp. 613-631 (18 pages) • Rajamani and Peel, "International Institutions," pp. 632-649 (17 pages) Recommended readings: • Nagtzaam, Van Hook and Guilfoyle, "Stakeholders in international environment regimes," pp. 40-55 (15 pages) • Rajamani and Peel, "Regional Organizations: The European Union," pp. 650-665 (15 pages) • Sands and Peel, "Governance: States International Organisations and Non-State Actors," pp. 52-88 (36 pages) • Techera, Lindley, Scott and Telesetsky, "Information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters," pp. 58-72 (14 pages)
Session 4	**Actors of IEL II: Non-governmental actors of IEL** • Role of non-governmental organizations in advancing international environmental protection • Influence of transnational environmental networks and grassroots movements on international environmental policymaking	Required readings: • Rajamani and Peel, "Non-State Actors," pp. 666-683 (17 pages) • Rajamani and Peel, "Indigenous Peoples," pp. 733-750 (17 pages) Recommended reading: • Rajamani and Peel, "Sub-National Actors," pp. 684-697 (13 pages) • Rajamani and Peel, "Epistemic Communities," pp. 698-715 (17 pages) • Rajamani and Peel, "Business and Industry," pp. 716-732 (16 pages) • Sands and Peel, "Governance: States International Organisations and Non-State Actors," pp. 89-97 (8 pages) (skim)
Local Field trip I: Meeting with actors of environmental law and policy in Freiburg: We will meet with a staff member of Ökostromgruppe Freiburg. https://www.oekostrom-freiburg.de/ This group is actively involved in planning, building and operating wind turbines, solar and hydropower plants in the broader Freiburg region. We will learn about how this group interacts with the local communities and addresses their concerns. TBC		
Session 5	**Legal Tools for a Greener Future- Instruments of IEL** • Primary sources and legal instruments of IEL • Effectiveness of legal instruments globally, within the EU, and at national levels	Required readings: • Sands and Peel, "International Lawmaking and Regulation," pp. 101-142 (41 pages)

	• Ensuring compliance with general principles	Recommended readings: • Fitzmaurice, Brus, Merkouris and Rydberg, "Actors and law-making in international environmental law," pp. 2-44. (42 pages) • Rajamani and Peel, "Soft Law," pp. 420-435 (15 pages) • Rajamani and Peel, "Judicial Development," pp. 454-474 (20 pages) • Rajamani and Peel, "Private and Quasi-private Standards," pp 436-453 (17 pages) • Rajamani and Peel, "Instrument choice," pp. 102-117 (15 pages) (skim)
Session 6	**Global Agreements and Legal Pathways - Climate change** • Legal implications of the 'Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)' • Binding and non-binding obligations under the UNFCCC (*United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*), Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement for mitigating climate change • Monitoring and enforcement of NDCs *(nationally determined contributions)* under the Paris Agreement • Functioning of emissions trading systems (e.g., EU Emissions Trading Scheme) and challenges	Required readings: • Techera, Lindley, Scott and Telesetsky, "International environmental law and climate change," pp. 216-229. (13 pages) Recommended readings: • Nagtzaam, Van Hook and Guilfoyle, "Climate change I" and "Climate change II", pp.284-316 (62 pages) (skim) • Rajamani and Peel, "Climate Change," pp. 492-511. (19 pages)
Session 7	**The EU's Green Agenda - Legal Framework and Strategies** • Differences between EU law and international law in scope, enforcement, and institutional structure. • Specific strategies and legal instruments adopted by the EU in environmental law. • Differences between EU Directives and Regulations **Getting ready for the course-meeting in Brussels**	Required readings: • Hoffmann, Sandrin and Doukas, "The EU in a Multidimensional Regime: The Regulation of Climate Neutrality," pp. 9-25. (15 pages) • Techera, Lindley, Scott and Telesetsky, "European environmental law," pp.233-247. (14 pages) Recommended readings: • European Commission, "European Climate Law", https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/european-climate-law_en • European Commission, "Delivering the European Green Deal" https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-

	Students will meet an expert on European Climate and Energy Regulation **CERRE – Centre on Regulation in Europe** **https://cerre.eu/areas-of-expertise/energy-mobility-and-sustainability/** - What is CERRE? - What can a non-profit think-tank do to influence EU's legislation?	and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/delivering-european-green-deal_en • European Parliament, "Environment policy:general principles and basic framework", https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/71/environment-policy-general-principles-and-basic-framework • Kulosevi, Oberthür, Van Asselt and Savaresi, "The European Climate Law: Strengthening EU Procedural Climate Governance?," pp. 23–42. (19 pages).
Experiencing Europe: "EU Parliament" Course Related Trip **Destinations: Strasbourg, France (1 day)**		
Session 8	**National and subnational actors: Case of German Environmental Law** • Administrative structure and authorities responsible for environmental policies in Germany • Instruments used for environmental protection in Germany. • Federal Constitutional Court's Order of 24 March 2021 • Role of civil society's participation in environmental procedures	Required readings: • Rajamani and Peel, ''National Implementation'', pp. 1022-1037 (15 pages). Recommended readings: • Federal Constitutional Court, "Constitutional complaints against the Federal Climate Change Act partially successful", https://www.bundesverfassungsgericht.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/EN/2021/bvg21-031.html?nn=148454 • German environment agency, "A guide to environmental administration in Germany". (80 pages) **Introduction of fictional court case for the groupwork and role-play**
Local Field trip II: Meeting with actors of environmental law and policy in Freiburg. **We will meet with a team member of the 'Sustainability Management' Office of the city of Freiburg** https://www.freiburg.de/pb/,Lde/206068.html TBC		
Session 9	**Mid-term examination**	
Experiencing Europe: "EU Institutions" Course Related Trip **Destinations: Brussels, Belgium, and Paris, France (7 days)**		
Part 2: Implementation of International Environmental Law and Policies: Case Studies		
Session 10	**Course related trip Reflection** • Course-meeting at CERRE • Meetings at the European Commission **Biodiversity in Peril - Legal Mechanisms for the protection of biological diversity**	Required readings: • Nagtzaam, Van Hook and Guilfoyle, "Biological diversity," pp. 329-369 (40 pages) Recommended readings:

	• Definition of biological diversity and its components: genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity. • Monitoring and enforcement of compliance with international biodiversity obligations. • Legal mechanisms to address violations of biodiversity laws.	• Sands and Peel, "Biological Diversity," pp. 384-450 (66 pages) • Techera, Lindley, Scott and Telesetsky, "Biodiversity, biosafety and bioprospecting," pp. 101-115. (14 pages) **Role draws for Groupwork**
Session 11	**Wildlife on the Brink - Conservation efforts at international and European levels** • Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) • Scope of the Habitat Directive. • Role of EU directives, such as the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), in wildlife protection • Mechanisms to monitor and enforce wildlife protection laws at international and European levels, their effectiveness, and limitations.	Required readings: • Techera, Lindley, Scott and Telesetsky, "International wildlife law," pp. 116-129. (13 pages) • Rajamani and Peel, "Wildlife," pp. 554-573. (19 pages). • CITES, *How CITES works*, https://cites.org/eng/disc/how.php Recommended readings: • EU Environment, *The protection of wild species in the EU*: https://youtu.be/5F1dvTR8pxo (3min) • European Commission, *Habitats Directive: new guidance on protected species (2min):* https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/habitats-directive-new-guidance-protected-species-2021-10-12_en • European Parliament, "Animal welfare and protection: EU laws explained" (10min):https://www.europarl.europa.eu/topics/en/article/20200624STO81911/animal-welfare-and-protection-eu-laws-explained-videos • Higuero, "Sustainable use: a powerful tool to ensure the conservation of species of wild fauna and flora" (26 min): https://cites.org/eng/CITES_S-G_Presentation_ReverseTheRed_IUCN_Congress_sustainableuse_06092021
Session 12	**The Wolf Debate - Protection of nature and biodiversity in the EU** • Protection of wolves under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and obligations imposed on EU Member States. • Circumstances under which derogations (Article 16 of the Habitats Directive) may be granted	Required readings: • Trouborst and Fleurke, "Killing Wolves Legally: Exploring the Scope for Lethal Wolf Management under European Nature Conservation Law." (44 pages) Recommended Readings • European Commission, "Nature and biodiversity:"

	• Legal mechanisms addressing conflicts between wolf populations and human activities, such as livestock farming and rural development. • Implementation of compensation schemes for damage caused by wolves across EU Member States.	https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity_en • European Commission, "Questions and answers on changing the protection status of the wolf under the Bern Convention. "(3 pages) (skim) • European Commission, *EU proposal to adapt protection status of the wolf adopted by Bern Convention, paving the way to more flexibility in managing wolf populations*: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_6202 (1 min read) (skim) • Baden-Württemberg Ministry for the Environment, Climate and Energy Sector, *Wolves in Baden-Württemberg*, https://um.baden-wuerttemberg.de/en/topics/nature-conservation/wolves-in-baden-wuerttemberg (skim) • Forest Research Institute Baden-Württemberg (n.d.), *Lynx and Wolf*: https://www.fva-bw.de/en/top-meta-navigation/departments/fva-wildlife-institute/lynx-and-wolf (skim)
Experiencing Europe: The European Union Funds in the Region Destination: South Baden, Germany (see selection in description below) (1 day)		
Session 13	**The protection of marine environment** • Fragmented nature of international maritime law • Rights and responsibilities of states under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) for different maritime zones (e.g., territorial sea, exclusive economic zone, high seas) • Legal mechanisms for regulating fishing activities (quotas, licenses, monitoring) • Coastal communities' and Indigenous peoples' rights in marine conservation policies	Required readings: • Rajamani and Peel, "The protection of the Marine Environment: Pollution and Fisheries," pp. 530-553. (23 pages) • Techera, Lindley, Scott and Telesetsky, "Marine environmental law: UNCLOS, ocean governance and fisheries," pp. 157-172. (15 pages) Recommended readings: • Nagtzaam, Van Hook and Guilfoyle, "The oceans," pp. 387-415 (28 pages)
Session 14	**Saving the Whales - Balancing Conservation and Cultural Traditions** • Governance of whale protection and management under the International	Required readings: • Nagtzaam, Van Hook and Guilfoyle, "Whaling," pp. 425-464 (39 pages) Recommended readings:

	Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) • Role of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) • Reconciliation of international legal frameworks between whale protection and cultural/subsistence whaling practices by Indigenous communities.	• European Commission (n.d.), "International Whaling:" https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/international-whaling_en • Nagtzaam, Van Hook and Guilfoyle, "External actors: The Sea Sheperd Conservation Society," pp. 529-559 (30 pages) (skim)
Session 15	**Environmental Justice in Action - Simulating Courtroom Disputes** **In-class activity: Role play** Environmental Law Disputes before Courts and Tribunals	Required readings: • Rajamani and Peel, "International Environmental Law Disputes Before International Courts and Tribunals," pp. 1038-1053 (15 pages) • Rajamani and Peel, "European Union/United Kingdom," pp. 1070-1077 (7 pages) Recommended readings: • Sands and Peel, "Compliance: Implementation, Enforcement, Dispute Settlement," pp. 144-192 (48 pages) (skim) **Critical writing assignments are due at the end of this week !**
Experiencing Europe: "EU Member States Course Related Trip" **Destinations: 2 countries (see selection in description below) – 7 days**		
Session 16	**Forestry Law - Global and EU Approaches to Sustainable Forest Management** • Global approaches such as UN Forest Principles, UNFF, and CBD, and their effectiveness in promoting sustainable forest management. • Indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights to access and use forest resources under international and national laws, and the role of customary laws in forest governance. • Impact of the EU-Deforestation law.	Required readings: • Nagtzaam, Van Hook and Guilfoyle, "Tropical Timber," pp. 120-158 (38 pages) • European Commission, (2023), "Green Deal: New law to fight global deforestation and forest degradation driven by EU production and consumption enters into force" (5min): https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/green-deal-new-law-fight-global-deforestation-and-forest-degradation-driven-eu-production-and-2023-06-29_en Recommended readings: • Pereira and Garcia, "Editorial: The legal protection of the Amazon rainforest." (5 pages) (skim)

		• European Parliament, "Deforestation law: Parliament gives companies extra year to comply:" https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20241212IPR25961/deforestation-law-parliament-gives-companies-extra-year-to-comply#:~:text=The%20deforestation%20regulation%2C%20adopted%20by%20Parliament%20on%2019,palm-oil%2C%20soya%2C%20wood%2C%20rubber%2C%20charcoal%20and%20printed%20paper.
Session 17	**Student Presentations - Insights from Environmental Law Case Studies**	**Presentation topics and guidelines will be provided on Moodle**
Session 18	**A Global Report Card – Evaluating International Environmental Legislation and Policies and Wrap-up** • Success of International Environmental Law (IEL) in achieving its goals • Challenges in translating international obligations into national laws and enforcement. • Engaging private actors in environmental goals: voluntary vs. binding regulations • Further legal reforms	Required readings: • Nagtzaam, Van Hook and Guilfoyle, "The future of international environmental law," pp. 575-605 (30 pages) • Techera, Lindley, Scott and Telesetsky, "Future directions for international environmental law," pp. 501-507. (6 pages)
Session 19	**Final examination**	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Franco-German History Trip: Alsace, France – 1 day
  During the first course related trip you will visit two significant historical and cultural landmarks in Franco-German history. You will have guided tours and learn about how age-old controversies and catastrophes in the heartland of Europe are represented, the role of memorials in constructing a European identity, and the challenges of overcoming centuries of conflict and rivalry.
- Germany in Europe: Then and Now Trip: Berlin, Germany – 5 days
  During the course-related trip to Berlin, you will continue to learn about the past and present of German culture, economy and politics of Germany. Historically this capital is a crucial place if one wants to understand the importance German politics has for the dynamics of European integration. In Berlin you will learn about the fall of the Berlin Wall, the reunification of Europe after the end of the Cold War, the challenges that emerged during the process of post-communist transition and about Germany's hegemonic position within the EU.
- EU Parliament Trip: Strasbourg, France – 1 day
  During this one-day trip, which is thematically linked to the EU Institutions trip you will visit the European Parliament in session in Strasbourg, France. There you will attend the parliamentary session and meet a

Member of European Parliament who will discuss current events and elaborate on the workings of the European Parliament.

- EU Institutions Trip: Brussels, Belgium and Paris, France – 7 days
  This course-related trip will take you first to Brussels, the EU's institutional power center. In Brussels you will have the opportunity to meet with not only EU officials but also representatives of national delegations to the EU, think tanks and NGOs, as well as academic experts. The EU institutions you will visit include the European Commission, the Council of the EU and the European Council and you will have a chance to discuss with those actors who draft, shape and finally take decisions in the European Union. You will continue to have first-hand experience of the EU by visiting various agencies, institutions, and museums in Paris, you will meet French academic experts to discuss French culture, economy, politics and society.
- EU Funds in the Region Trip: South Baden, Germany – 1 day
  This day trip will start with a meeting where an expert from the region will introduce you to EU's agricultural and structural funds and their implementation with examples from the region. Following the meeting you will visit a family farm that is typical for South Baden.
- EU Member States Trip - 7 days
  Students choose 1 out of the three following course related trip options, e.g.:
  1. Stockholm, Sweden; Warsaw, Poland/Prague, Czechia
  2. Rome, Italy; Budapest, Hungary
  3. Athens, Greece; Sofia, Bulgaria/Bucharest, Romania

The destinations may vary according to the topicality and nature of challenges of the EU and its integration process. The member states of the EU are still characterized by different state structures, economic ideologies, and cultural identities. This last course-related trip gives you the opportunity to choose between three different trip options. On these trips, you will learn about the current challenges of European integration. Experiencing the particularities and cultural diversity of these societies is essential in order to understand the variation in terms of domestic debates and national preferences when it comes to such important issues like, for instance, immigration, macroeconomic integration as well as European security.

Local course-related trips:

Students will participate in two local field trips (each 90 minutes) designed to provide firsthand insight into the practice and implementation of environmental law at the local and regional levels. These visits may include meetings with key stakeholders such as:

- Local politicians
- NGOs (e.g., NABU)
- Forest Research Institute Baden-Württemberg
- Black Forest National Park
- Nature conservation authorities

The first field trip will involve a visit to the **Ökostromgruppe Freiburg**, a company engaged in planning, constructing, and operating wind, solar, and hydropower projects in the greater Freiburg area. The session will focus on how a company integrated the local communities and their concerns within the given environmental legal framework. The second field trip will provide students the opportunity to meet with a representative from the **Sustainability Management Office** of the City of Freiburg. This session will explore the role of local government in shaping and enforcing environmental law and sustainability policies.

The local field trip destinations may vary based on topical relevance and evolving contexts in the field of international environmental law.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Government and Organization Reports/Webpages

- Baden-Württemberg Ministry for the Environment, Climate and Energy Sector. *Wolves in Baden-Württemberg*. 2024. https://um.baden-wuerttemberg.de/en/topics/nature-conservation/wolves-in-baden-wuerttemberg.
- CITES. *How CITES Works*. https://cites.org/eng/disc/how.php.
- European Commission. *Habitats Directive: New Guidance on Protected Species*. 2021. https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/habitats-directive-new-guidance-protected-species-2021-10-12_en.
- ———. *Green Deal: New Law to Fight Global Deforestation and Forest Degradation Driven by EU Production and Consumption Enters into Force*. 2023. https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/green-deal-new-law-fight-global-deforestation-and-forest-degradation-driven-eu-production-and-2023-06-29_en.
- ———. *Questions and Answers on Changing the Protection Status of the Wolf under the Bern Convention*. Brussels, December 20, 2023.
- ———. *EU Proposal to Adapt Protection Status of the Wolf Adopted by Bern Convention, Paving the Way to More Flexibility in Managing Wolf Populations*. 2024. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_6202.
- European Parliament. *Environment Policy: General Principles and Basic Framework*. 2024. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/71/environment-policy-general-principles-and-basic-framework.
- ———. *Deforestation Law: Parliament Gives Companies Extra Year to Comply*. 2024. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20241212IPR25961/deforestation-law-parliament-gives-companies-extra-year-to-comply.
- Federal Constitutional Court. *Constitutional Complaints Against the Federal Climate Change Act Partially Successful*. Press release No. 31/2021, April 29, 2021. https://www.bundesverfassungsgericht.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/EN/2021/bvg21-031.html?nn=148454.
- Forest Research Institute Baden-Württemberg. *Lynx and Wolf*. n.d. https://www.fva-bw.de/en/top-meta-navigation/departments/fva-wildlife-institute/lynx-and-wolf.
- German Environment Agency. *A Guide to Environmental Administration in Germany*. 2019.
- EU Environment. *The Protection of Wild Species in the EU*. YouTube video. https://youtu.be/5F1dvTR8pxo.
- Higuero, Ivonne. "Sustainable Use: A Powerful Tool to Ensure the Conservation of Species of Wild Fauna and Flora." September 6, 2021. https://cites.org/eng/CITES_S-G_Presentation_ReverseTheRed_IUCN_Congress_sustainableuse_06092021.

Books and Academic Articles

- Kulovesi, Kati, Sebastian Oberthür, Harro van Asselt, and Annalisa Savaresi. "The European Climate Law: Strengthening EU Procedural Climate Governance?" *Journal of Environmental Law* 36 (2024): 23–42.
- Nagtzaam, Gerry, Evan van Hook, and Duncan Guilfoyle. *International Environmental Law: A Case Study Analysis*. Routledge, 2020.
- Nyekwere, E. H., I. C. S. Okogbule, and D. O. N. Agwor. "Understanding the Principles of International Environmental Law and Their Reflections in International Environmental Treaties and Non-Binding Soft Law Instruments." *Journal of Law, Policy and Globalization* 123 (2022).
- Pereira, Ricardo, and Beatriz Garcia. "Editorial: The Legal Protection of the Amazon Rainforest." *Review of European Community and International Environmental Law*, August 2021.
- Rajamani, Lavanya, and Jacqueline Peel, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of International Environmental Law*. 2nd ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.
- Trouwborst, Arie, and Froukje Fleurke. "Killing Wolves Legally: Exploring the Scope for Lethal Wolf Management under European Nature Conservation Law." *Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy* (2019). https://doi.org/10.1080/13880292.2019.1686223.
- Ribeiro Hoffmann, Andrea, Paola Sandrin, and Yannis E. Doukas. "Climate Change in Regional Perspective – European Union and Latin American Initiatives." In *The EU in Multidimensional Regime: The Regulation of Climate Neutrality*, edited by United Nations University Series on Regionalism, Vol. 27, 9–25. Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2024.
- Sands, Philippe, and Jacqueline Peel. *Principles of International Environmental Law*. 4th ed. Cambridge University Press, 2018.
- Techera, Erika J., Judith Lindley, Karen N. Scott, and Anastasia Telesetsky, eds. *Routledge Handbook of International Environmental Law*. 2nd ed. Routledge, 2021.

RECOMMENDED AND ADDITIONAL READINGS

- American Bar Association. *10 Key Principles in International Environmental Law*. 2019. https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/publications/insights-on-law-and-society/volume-19/insights-vol--19---issue-1/10-key-principles-in-international-environmental-law/.
- European Commission. *Delivering the European Green Deal*. https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/delivering-european-green-deal_en.
- ———. *European Climate Law*. https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/european-climate-law_en.
- ———. *International Whaling*. n.d. https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/international-whaling_en.
- ———. *The European Green Deal*. https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en.
- ———. *The European Green Deal*. https://ec.europa.eu/stories/european-green-deal/.
- ———. *Nature and Biodiversity*. https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity_en.
- European Parliament. *Animal Welfare and Protection: EU Laws Explained (Videos)*. 2024. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/topics/en/article/20200624STO81911/animal-welfare-and-protection-eu-laws-explained-videos.
- Fitzmaurice, Malgosia, Martti Brus, Panos Merkouris, and Anna Rydberg. "Chapter 1." In *Research Handbook on International Environmental Law*, 2–44. Elgar Publishing, 2021.
- Hunter, David. "International Environmental Law." *Insights on Law and Society*, American Bar Association, 2021. https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/publications/insights-on-law-and-society/volume-19/insights-vol--19---issue-1/international-environmental-law/.

- Nagtzaam, Gerry, Evan van Hook, and Duncan Guilfoyle. *International Environmental Law: A Case Study Analysis*. Routledge, 2020.
- Rajamani, Lavanya, and Jacqueline Peel, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of International Environmental Law*. 2nd ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.
- Sands, Philippe, and Jacqueline Peel. *Principles of International Environmental Law*. 4th ed. Cambridge University Press, 2018.
- Techera, Erika J., Judith Lindley, Karen N. Scott, and Anastasia Telesetsky, eds. *Routledge Handbook of International Environmental Law*. 2nd ed. Routledge, 2021.

FURTHER RESOURCES:

For updates on environmental issues, it is recommended to visit the following websites:

- https://www.eea.europa.eu/en
- https://commission.europa.eu/energy-climate-change-environment_en
- https://icelinternational.org/