

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
FALL 2023 COURSE REGISTRATION - PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION (PCIS)¹

COURSE	LAW 343 Sustainable Development Law and Governance
UNIT VALUE	1.5 units (3 hours/week of instruction)
INSTRUCTOR	Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger
TERM OFFERED	Fall 2023
CLASS TIMES	See Schedule
PREREQUISITES / COREQUISITES	No prerequisites, but international law, environmental law, international economic law or human rights law would be helpful. This course counts as elective for the Concentration in Environmental Law and Sustainability

Description

Our globalizing world faces significant challenges, and law and governance can play a crucial role to either foster or frustrate more sustainable development. Seeking a practical, universal and effective framework to end poverty, increase social inclusion, and sustain the biosphere, 193 countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit (UN SD) in 2015, setting out 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 time-bound targets to end poverty and hunger, secure access to health and education, tackle climate change, protect life on land, promote peace, justice and strong institutions, and other pressing priorities. However, feasible pathways to long-term sustainability are highly complex, subject to technological uncertainty and environmental constraints - they require considerable financial and other resources, including many trained, motivated individuals. Legal and inter-disciplinary specialist teams, with access to new knowledge and international networks, skilled in working across national borders and cultures, are needed to provide integrated approaches. This course introduces the foundations of key legal and governance knowledge to advance the SDGs internationally. It draws on insights from international initiatives led by University of Victoria and international law professors on climate law and governance, biodiversity law and governance, human rights and intergenerational justice, sustainable trade, investment and financial rules, and sustainable management of natural resources. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be familiar with current and emerging global law and public policy issues related to the SDGs, equipped to analyze critical legal dimensions of sustainable development in different jurisdictions and cognizant of the key principles and skills for integrating environmental, human rights and economic law, policy and practice. Students will also feel more confident in taking informed decisions for future professions helping the world achieve sustainable development.

Course Objectives/Outcomes:

The overall objective of this course is to introduce the foundations of key law and governance skills and knowledge to advance the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to experientially explore legal reform and action in different jurisdictions, worldwide. Upon successful completion of the course:

- Students will be familiar with current and emerging global law and public policy issues related to the SDGs,

¹ The information in this document is provided for course registration purposes only and is **subject to change**. More detailed course information about course content and evaluation will be provided upon the commencement of the course. Students seeking additional information about the course prior to its commencement may contact the instructor or, if no instructor is listed, law.studentservices@uvic.ca.

- Students will be equipped to analyze critical legal dimensions of sustainable development in different jurisdictions and cognizant of the key principles and skills for integrating environmental, human rights and economic law, policy and practice.
- Students will also feel more confident in taking informed decisions for future professions helping their regions and world to achieve sustainable development.

Methods

The overall course will be delivered in an online seminar style requiring extensive participation by students in the class. The course will achieve its learning objectives by deploying a combination of talks by internationally recognized development experts, selective lectures by the instructor, important classroom discussions facilitated by an interactive roleplay dynamic, analytical group presentations, and extensive readings.

Course Evaluation:

1. Online Class Participation & Global Classroom Distinguished Legal Experts Panel Exercise (20%)
2. Oral Presentations of Readings (30%)
3. Group Sustainable Development Goal Legal Action Plan Task Forces & Individual Risk Benefit Analysis (50%)

Course Instructor:

Professor Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger, Professor of Law, University of Victoria; Visiting Chair in Sustainable Development Law and Policy, University of Cambridge; Senior Director, Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL)

<https://www.uvic.ca/law/facultystaff/facultydirectory/cordonier-segger.php>

<https://www.lcil.cam.ac.uk/press/news/2023/03/professor-marie-claire-cordonier-segger-takes-visiting-chair-sustainable>

<https://www.cisd.org/team/prof-marie-claire-cordonier-segger/>

<https://www.lucy.cam.ac.uk/fellows/professor-marie-claire-cordonier-segger>

June 2023