

COURSE	LAW 343-1 International Law, Governance and Climate Change
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (condensed, 6 hours of instruction per week)
INSTRUCTOR	Prof Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger w Dr Markus Gehring
TERM OFFERED	Summer 2021
CLASS TIMES	See schedule
PREREQUISITES / COREQUISITES	No prerequisites, but international law, environmental law, international economic law or human rights law would be helpful.

Description

Climate change poses crucial challenges for the world's Sustainable Development Goals. Impacts threaten to undermine decades of social and economic development; severely constrain efforts to protect the environment; and prevent human rights to life, health, water and food. Most will persist for centuries even if emission levels halted immediately, and current regulatory and financial regimes continue to privilege carbon-intensive options. In the Paris Agreement, over 197 Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreed to hold increases in global temperatures well below 2 °C, pursuing efforts toward a 1.5 °C limit; to increase adaptation to climate impacts and foster resilience; and to harness finance flows for low-emissions development. Their 'high ambition' framework governs cooperation on loss and damage, forests and land management, technology development and transfer, education and capacity building, with mechanisms for transparency, peer review, stock-taking and compliance support. Implementation depends on 'bottom up' climate action plans as 'Nationally Determined Contributions' (NDCs) to a global climate response. However, the Paris Agreement is only a first step. Major regulatory, institutional, economic and technological transformations, if carried out immediately, may limit dangerous climate change. Diverse measures will be necessary and require legal support. Out of 187 countries with (i)NDCs published online by the UNFCCC registry, 156 prioritize legal and institutional reforms. New legal and cross-disciplinary teams, with climate law knowledge and skills, are needed for an integrated approach to climate change, to ensure the Paris Agreement can achieve its ambitious goals. This course explores the Paris Agreement in its international regime, analysing the challenges and opportunities for climate law and governance reform for sustainable development at all levels, and exploring new pathways for effective climate action.

Course Objectives/Outcomes:

- Upon successful completion of the course, students will be familiar with current and emerging global law and policy aspects of the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and achieving SDG 13 on climate action among others SDGs.
- Student will be equipped to analyze critical dimensions of climate law and policy in the context of different countries and regions.
- Students will be cognizant of the key legal and institutional reforms being undertaken to implement national and international climate change commitments, and key advances in climate litigation worldwide.
- Students will build capacity to assist different levels of governments to implement the Paris Agreement, to identify legal barriers to action on climate change, and through interactive negotiations, draft principled instruments based on practical problem-solving scenarios.
- Students will be in a position to take informed decisions regarding their future professional role in helping the world to tackle climate change.

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, the Manager, Academic Administration and Student Services (lawmaass@uvic.ca).

Methods

The overall course will be delivered in an interactive, experiential seminar style with extensive participation by students in the class. The course will achieve its learning objectives by deploying a combination of selective lectures by the instructor, talks by internationally recognized climate law and policy experts, classroom and online discussions, an analytical group negotiations exercise, and readings.

Course Evaluation:

- 30% - Readings Summaries (10 mins oral summary of readings) & Class Participation
- 30% - Group Participation in "Climate Negotiations/Instrument-Drafting" Exercise
- 40% - Group Exercise Report (15 min group presentation & PPT due 1 week after presentation)

Course Instructor:

Professor Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger, Leverhulme Visiting Professor, University of Cambridge

<https://www.bennettinstitute.cam.ac.uk/news/professor-cordonier-segger-explore-new-climate-law/>

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

<https://www.ila-canada.ca/post/professor-marie-claire-cordonier-segger-granted-the-leverhulme-trust-visiting-professorship-award>

Guest Co-Instructor:

Dr Markus Gehring, Law Lecturer & Director of Studies, University of Cambridge

<https://www.law.cam.ac.uk/people/academic/mw-gehring/1218>

<https://www.cisd.org/team/dr-markus-gehring/>

Posted 25 February 2021