

Climate Change Law and Policy (Elective Course)

Course Description:

Climate change has wide-ranging consequences that extend beyond just environmental impacts. It poses significant threats to fundamental human rights, such as access to clean air, water, and food. This course on Climate Change Law and Policy is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the intricate landscape of climate governance at various levels, encompassing both international and Indian climate law. The course will explore the far-reaching consequences of climate change, examining its impact on fundamental human rights, the stability of energy resources, the competitive edge of nations, the pursuit of environmental justice, and the fairness of outcomes for present and future generations.

Learning Outcome:

- Critically assess the causes and impacts of climate change on different countries and generations.
- Understanding the international legal principles, rules, and institutions governing climate change.
- Acquiring skills to analyze the roles of international legal and political entities, national governments, domestic courts, NGOs, and private sector businesses engaged in environmental protection and natural resources management.

Course Outlines:

1. Evolution of International Regime of Climate Change

- evolution of the global climate change regime, highlighting key agreements and milestones.

2. International Environmental Law Principles and Climate Change

- key principles of international environmental law that are crucial for addressing climate change.
- role of climate change litigation in holding responsible parties accountable.

3. Mitigation and Adaptation Under the Climate Change Regime

- key aspects of mitigation, such as reducing emissions and transitioning to renewable energy.
- role of technological innovation in combating climate change and promoting sustainable development is also explored.

4. Climate Change and Human Rights

- impact of climate change on marginalized communities, women, children, indigenous peoples, and developing nations.

- importance of a human rights-based approach to address climate change and protect vulnerable populations.

5. The Legal and Regulatory Framework for Climate Change in India

- India's legal and regulatory framework for climate change, focusing on the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and relevant environmental laws.

Method of Evaluation

- **Assignment** on specific topics related to climate change law and policy.
- **Presentation** to assess their research skills, communication abilities, and understanding of the subject matter.

Readings

- Daniel Bodansky, Jutta Brunnee & Lavanya Rajamani, *International Climate Change Law* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2017)
- Sumudu Atapattu, **Human Rights Approaches to Climate Change Challenges and Opportunities** (Routledge, 2018).
- Amitav Ghosh, **The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable**, Penguin Books India, 2016.
- Lavanya Rajamani, The 2015 Paris Agreement: Interplay Between Hard, Soft and Non-Obligations, 28 J. Env'tl. L. 337 (2016).
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Sixth Assessment Report (2022).

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