

**Abbreviated Syllabus  
Law and Sustainability  
URP 6905  
On-line course offering**

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Course Introduction:

Efforts to foster sustainable development will likely require some level of regulation in order to change behaviour relating to the use of natural resources. This course seeks to employ a case study approach in order to help students understand the various legal frameworks at international, national, and local levels necessary to accomplish sustainability in the law. Equal attention will be paid within the context of each module to practices which rely on technological substitutes to encourage sustainable development verses those which promote the efficient use of resources.

Course Objectives:

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to issues involved crafting regulations which promote the sustainable use of land, water, and energy, among other resources. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with both regulatory and incentive based approaches crafted by governments around the world to promote sustainability through the use of technological substitutes, reduction in consumption, or both.

Course Expectations:

In order to get the most out of this learning experience, you must spend the time reading the materials and reviewing the lectures before class. You may want to review those materials again after our live session. The live session will function like an English tutorial. You will be expected to prepare responses in advance to the questions posted on the course website. You will forward me your responses to those questions at least 24 hours before each live session. Your answers should reference my lectures, the readings, and your own experiences and research. Fifty percent of your grade will be determined on the basis your preparation and participation in the tutorials.

The remaining 50% of your grade will be based on the assessment of a final project: the preparation of a 10-12 page paper that addresses the legal issue you have identified as salient to your thesis research.

## Grading:

Final course grades will be awarded on a 100 point scale. A (100%-90%), B+ (89%-87%), B (86%-80%), C+ (79%-77%), C (76%-70%), D+ (69%-67%), D (66%-60%), F (less than 60%).

Letter Grade	Equivalent Numeric Score
A	4
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D	1
D-	.67
F	0

Completion of all course assignments does not guarantee a student an A grade. A's will be awarded to students who demonstrate quality in their work.

## Schedule/Topics:

### Module 1

#### TOPICS:

- Introduction to Law and Sustainability
- Legal Research Methods

### Module 2

#### TOPICS:

- Ecological Footprint

### Module 3

Energy Production: Biomass; Nuclear

#### TOPICS:

- Introduction of Energy Production and Consumption Patterns
- Comparative Use of Biomass and Nuclear Power
- Regulatory Spectrum and Legal Issues

- Best Practices

#### **Module 4**

Energy Production II: Solar; Wind

TOPICS:

- Comparative Use of Solar and Wind Power
- Regulatory Spectrum and Legal Issues
- Best Practices

#### **Module 5**

Water Usage

TOPICS:

- Introduction of Water Consumption Patterns and Issues
- Regulatory Spectrum and Legal Issues
- Best Practices

#### **Module 6**

Green Building

TOPICS:

- Green building and demolition practices
- Green certifications across the nations
- Legal Issues

#### **Modules 7-10**

Land Use Planning and Transportation Planning

TOPICS:

- Encouraging Sufficient Density for Effective Transportation Systems
- Encouraging the use of public transportation through pricing
- Low Impact Development
- Off the Grid Development

#### **Module 11**

Waste Management, Reduction and Recycling,

TOPICS:

- Making manufacturers responsible for reducing waste
  - Water pricing: assessing the real cost of water consumption
  - Low impact development and zeroscaping
  - Necessary changes to water law regulations: EU Case Study

#### **Module 12**

Population Management

#### **Module 13**

Climate Change

TOPICS:

- Greenhouse Gases

- Drought
- Sea Level Rise
- Increasing Storm Activity

## **Module 14**

### Sustainable Participation

#### TOPICS:

- Costs of retooling or failing to?
- Equity issues associated with protecting resources
- Intergenerational standing to sue