

LAWS 2353 Purdy Crawford Seminar Course: Sustainable Investing: Selected Problems

Credit Hours: 2

This seminar will introduce students to the corporate, environmental and securities law principles and processes that guide the legal aspects of responsible and sustainable investing. Determining what environmental, social, and governance issues must be disclosed in public companies' filings is still a matter of debate. In this course, there is a primary emphasis on corporate disclosure of sustainability factors, materiality, fiduciary duties of investment managers, and climate litigation cases. Canada, the United States, United Kingdom, and European Union regulations are compared. You will quickly learn that sustainable investing raises exciting corporate and securities law challenges, and the law is quickly evolving. This course is timely as securities commissions around the globe are updating their regulatory schemes for sustainability integration. This seminar is designed for students interested in pursuing securities law, corporate transactions, or international environmental law. Students in this field are advised to learn about the economics and valuations of companies and investment funds. A special lecture on valuations and due diligence will occur in the latter part of the course. By the end of the course, you should have a strong foundation in the substantive law related to responsible and sustainable investing, be able to think critically about the justifications and theories of investments and be able to articulate sound legal arguments for reforms and contemporary securities law-related issues. Materials are developed by the professor and uploaded onto Brightspace.

Prerequisite: Business Associations

Co-requisite: Students are encouraged to take Securities Transactions, Business Associations and Environmental Law before or concurrent with this course.

Assessment Method: The assessment consists of two short assignments, a presentation and class participation. The first assignment, a short background paper, is worth 25% of your final grade. The second is worth 35% of the final grade and builds upon the first assignment. These assignments will not follow the school's major paper course requirements. Students will meet with the professor over the first few weeks to discuss their research ideas. Students will present their assignments over the final few weeks of the course. The length of the presentations depends on the number of students in the class. Presentations are worth 25% of the final grade. Class participation is worth 15% of the final grade.