Faculty of Science Course Syllabus  
Environmental Science  
ENVS 3200: International Environmental Law for Scientists  
(or Dr. Strangelaw: “How I stopped worrying and learned to love International Environmental Law”)  
Winter 2016

Instructor: Peter Mushkat  
pwm@dal.ca  
902.430.6097  
LSC 813

Lectures: 1:35 – 4:25pm  
TBA

Course Description
This is “strange law” because under the doctrine of international law there is no inherent enforceability. While the problems posed by environmental issues are global and require solutions that are only achievable through multi-lateral collaboration; the consequent harm which results from environmental degradation is potentially catastrophic and is experienced on a local level.

Over the past 20 years we have witnessed an explosion of international agreements intended to either redress or avert environmental disasters. Some of these are based on sound science; some on politics. How do these two elements mix at the international level? Can international law accommodate the inherent uncertainty embodied in scientific hypotheses? This course will explore the relationship of modern states in a world where political boundaries are rapidly disappearing in the realms of commerce, communication, governance, and the environment.

Course Prerequisites
Must have completed ENVS 3200 with a minimum grade of ‘A-‘ or permission of the instructor.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes
Upon completing this course, students will:

- appreciate the nature of International Law pertaining to the environment and what effect that has within states and globally;
- understand the processes by which International Law is formulated;
- understand the contribution of science to International Environmental Law;
- appreciate the distinctions and contributions of formal and informal interactions of governments and ENGOs in the development of International Environmental Law; and
- know that law is not the answer but, rather, a mechanism for dealing with problems and as such is a responsive instrument.

Skills acquired or enhanced
Reading/understanding complex content; analytical thinking; relating theoretical constructs to real events; problem solving; research methods (primary and secondary); written and oral communication (seminars and final report).

Course Materials
Birnie, Patricia & Alan Boyle; International Law & the Environment; 3rd edition; Oxford University Press; Oxford; 2009
Course Assessment
During the term each student will be responsible for leading portions of the seminars (20%). There will be a major paper (40%) that will be presented in class (20%). The paper will be due the first day of the posted exam period. Attendance and overall participation will count (20%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight (% of final grade)</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>As per the outline below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper presentation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>As per the outline below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/participation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conversion of numerical grades to Final Letter Grades follows the Dalhousie Common Grade Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>(90-100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>(85-89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>(80-84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>(77-79)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>(73-76)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>(70-72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>(65-69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>(60-64)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>(55-59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>(50-54)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>(&lt;50)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dalhousie Common Grade Scale
Course Policies

Policy on Late Assignments and Extensions

Assignments submitted late without an approved extension or unaccompanied by a doctor’s note will be deducted 20% a day. Extensions are granted liberally but must be requested at least 2 working days (i.e., weekdays not Sat/Sun) prior to the assignment’s original due date. THERE IS NO EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE!
Course Outline

Tuesday, Jan 05
Introduction: International Law and the Environment (Birnie, C 1)

Tuesday, Jan 12
International Governance and the formulation of Environmental Law and Policy (Birnie, C 2)

Tuesday, Jan 19
The Structure of International Environmental Law I: Rights and Obligations of States (Birnie, C 3)

Tuesday, Jan 26
The Structure of International Environmental Law II & III: Regulation, Compliance, Enforcement and Dispute Settlement & Environmental Rights and Crimes (Birnie, C 4 & 5)

Tuesday, Feb 02
Individual Interviews

Tuesday, Feb 09
Protecting the Atmosphere and Outer Space (UNFCCC and beyond) (Birnie, C 10)

Tuesday, Feb 16
READING WEEK

Tuesday, Feb 23
The Law of the Sea and the Protection of the Marine Environment (Birnie, C 7)

Tuesday, Mar 01
The International Control of Hazardous Waste & Nuclear Energy and the Environment (Birnie, C 8 & 9)

Tuesday, Mar 08
Conservation of Nature, Ecosystems and Biodiversity (Birnie, C 11)

Tuesday, Mar 15
Conservation of Migratory and Land-based species and Biodiversity & Conservation of Marine Living Resources and Biodiversity (Birnie, C 12 & 13)

Tuesday, Mar 22
International Trade and Environmental Protection (Birnie, C 14)

Tuesday, Mar 29
Paper presentations

Tuesday, Apr 05
The Future of international Environmental Law and Wrap-up
ACCOMMODATION POLICY FOR STUDENTS
Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic protected under Canadian Human Rights legislation. The full text of Dalhousie’s Student Accommodation Policy can be accessed here:
Students who require accommodation for classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Centre (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. More information and the Request for Accommodation form are available at www.dal.ca/access.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Academic integrity, with its embodied values, is seen as a foundation of Dalhousie University. It is the responsibility of all students to be familiar with behaviours and practices associated with academic integrity. Instructors are required to forward any suspected cases of plagiarism or other forms of academic cheating to the Academic Integrity Officer for their Faculty.

The Academic Integrity website (http://academicintegrity.dal.ca) provides students and faculty with information on plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty, and has resources to help students succeed honestly. The full text of Dalhousie’s Policy on Intellectual Honesty and Faculty Discipline Procedures is available here:
http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity/academic-policies.html

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT
Dalhousie University has a student code of conduct, and it is expected that students will adhere to the code during their participation in lectures and other activities associated with this course. In general:

“The University treats students as adults free to organize their own personal lives, behaviour and associations subject only to the law, and to University regulations that are necessary to protect

• the integrity and proper functioning of the academic and non–academic programs and activities of the University or its faculties, schools or departments;
• the peaceful and safe enjoyment of University facilities by other members of the University and the public;
• the freedom of members of the University to participate reasonably in the programs of the University and in activities on the University’s premises;
• the property of the University or its members.”

The full text of the code can be found here:
SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

The following campus services are available to help students develop skills in library research, scientific writing, and effective study habits. The services are available to all Dalhousie students and, unless noted otherwise, are free.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Support Provided</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Academic Advising</td>
<td>Help with - understanding degree requirements and academic regulations - choosing your major - achieving your educational or career goals - dealing with academic or other difficulties</td>
<td>Killam Library Ground floor Rm G28 Bissett Centre for Academic Success</td>
<td>In person: Killam Library Rm G28 By appointment:  - e-mail: <a href="mailto:advising@dal.ca">advising@dal.ca</a> - Phone: (902) 494-3077 - Book online through MyDal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalhousie Libraries</td>
<td>Help to find books and articles for assignments Help with citing sources in the text of your paper and preparation of bibliography</td>
<td>Killam Library Ground floor Librarian offices</td>
<td>In person: Service Point (Ground floor) By appointment:  Identify your subject librarian (URL below) and contact by email or phone to arrange a time:  <a href="http://dal.beta.libguides.com/sb.php?subject_id=34328">http://dal.beta.libguides.com/sb.php?subject_id=34328</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studying for Success (SFS)</td>
<td>Help to develop essential study skills through small group workshops or one-on-one coaching sessions Match to a tutor for help in course-specific content (for a reasonable fee)</td>
<td>Killam Library 3rd floor Coordinator Rm 3104 Study Coaches Rm 3103</td>
<td>To make an appointment:  - Visit main office (Killam Library main floor, Rm G28) - Call (902) 494-3077 - email Coordinator at: <a href="mailto:sfs@dal.ca">sfs@dal.ca</a> or - Simply drop in to see us during posted office hours All information can be found on our website: <a href="http://www.dal.ca/sfs">www.dal.ca/sfs</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Centre</td>
<td>Meet with coach/tutor to discuss writing assignments (e.g., lab report, research paper, thesis, poster) - Learn to integrate source material into your own work appropriately - Learn about disciplinary writing from a peer or staff member in your field</td>
<td>Killam Library Ground floor Learning Commons &amp; Rm G25</td>
<td>To make an appointment:  - Visit the Centre (Rm G25) and book an appointment - Call (902) 494-1963 - email <a href="mailto:writingcentre@dal.ca">writingcentre@dal.ca</a> - Book online through MyDal We are open six days a week See our website: <a href="http://writingcentre.dal.ca">writingcentre.dal.ca</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ESS Subject Specialist (Library Resources)
Students in the ESS program with questions or concerns related to information retrieval or management can contact Michelle Paon in the Killam Library (494-5198 or 494-3621 / mpaon@dal.ca).

Citation Style
Environmental Science has adopted Communicating in Geography and Environmental Sciences as the authoritative guide to writing style; citation and other modes of presentation. It is available at the Killam Library (G 70 H39 2011) and in the Bookstore. It is the assigned text for ENVS 2001.