

## International Law Program 2025

### International Environmental Law Course Descriptions

#### **Law 660: Introduction to International Law in the Anthropocene**

This course will provide an introduction to public international law for students in the International Environmental Law stream. In the first week of the course, which may be taken jointly with the students in the Public International Law and International Business Law streams, students will study the core concepts and principles of international law, including the sources of international law, the subjects of international law, and the concept of jurisdiction. In the second week of the course, the students will critically explore the relationship of international law with nature, including by uncovering the assumptions about the natural world that are embedded in the core concepts and principles of international law. The course will provide students with the conceptual and theoretical basis for a critical engagement with the legal rules and institutions that are covered in the remainder of the stream.

#### **Law 661: The Law of Oceans, Air and Space**

The governance of oceans, air and space is increasingly in the spotlight. The impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, rising geopolitical tensions, and the advent of commercial space travel pose new and ever more complex challenges for the governance of areas of the globe and beyond that are in large part outside of national jurisdiction. The course will introduce students to the foundational treaties governing these domains, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation, and the Outer Space Treaty and will discuss the efforts of the international community to deploy, adapt and developed these areas of law in response to pressing contemporary issues.

#### **Law 662: International Environmental and Climate Law**

International environmental law is a relatively young field of international law, but its tasks is monumental – to tackle the most existential challenges that humanity has ever faced, from biodiversity loss and plastics pollution to the escalating climate crisis. This course offers an overview of the legal frameworks that states have developed over the past decades to address these challenges, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Students will explore the foundational principles of international environmental law, delve into the dynamics of international environmental lawmaking, and critically assess the achievements and shortcomings of the international legal response to environmental problems.