

Environmental Law

Lecturers:

Prof. Michiel Heldeweg

Course description:

- **Course objectives**

Offering an introduction into legal aspects of environmental care, especially from the viewpoint of legal policies.

- **Subject**

Legal policies in terms of frameworks of environmental regulation.

- **Content / topics**

Specific types of environmental regulation (normative; direct, indirect and self-regulation) are being introduced and discussed. With many subjects this also includes a brief introduction into law, as most students do not have any prior knowledge of the discipline.

- **Course learning objectives**

Knowledge: basic concepts, instruments and norms concerning environmental Legal policies;

Competences: being able to analyse and criticise existing systems of environmental law in terms of the legal framework.

Course materials:

- Notes by the lecturer
- General introduction to law: Tony Honore, About Law, An introduction, Clarendon press
- Reader: Various reading materials and articles

Instructional working methods:

Interactive lectures and occasional assignments to write a short paper on the use of certain legal instruments in environmental law as practiced in the students home country

Assessment:

- having participated in preparations to a group presentation during the course;
- an individual multiple choice (MC) exam in which the understanding of the basic elements of the regulatory frameworks and their contexts (20-30 questions)*;
- paper assignment relating to presentation in third session (small group). The paper is marked with sufficient or insufficient.

* The MC-exam relates to the 'headlines' of the sessions' subjects, especially being able to identify, compare and evaluate different regulatory strategies

Relationships with other courses:

Knowledge and competences as mentioned above are directly relevant for courses with managerial content because the focus on legal policies (or legal instruments) facilitates strategic decision-making and sets boundaries for viable managerial targets. In the MEEM programme, the main relationships are with the courses Environmental and Energy Policies and Strategies in Context, Energy Management, Policy and Technology, Environmental Management and CSR.

Relation of course with final attainment targets:

- **Primary relationship**
 - Graduates have knowledge of and insight in the relevant key concepts and theories of policy studies and law and can describe and categorise relevant policy instruments, describe the legal basis of common policy instruments used in environmental and energy management and are able to assess their usefulness and feasibility in various contexts. (1)
- **Secondary relationship**
 - Graduates are able to reflect on matters and issues in the domain, are able to form an opinion and to contribute to both scientific and practitioners' discussions and e.g. to critically reflect on the role of technology in the process towards sustainable development. (13)
- **Tertiary relationship**
 - Graduates understand the concept of sustainable development and the relationships between resource utilization, production processes, societal processes and environmental pressure and are able to apply combinations of concepts and theories in environmental and energy management to the situation in the home country or other specific real life situations. (5)
 - Graduates are able and willing to recognise the ethical aspects related to their activities. (11)