

CLIMATE CHANGE LAW (LAW 669)
SUMMER 2020
(May 26-29 & June 1-4, 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm)
Professor Tseming Yang

Overview

This course will introduce students to the legal tools and policy measures used to respond to the world's most pressing and prominent environmental problem -- global climate change. In the process, we will explore evaluative frameworks and the latest developments in California, the U.S., and internationally, including the status of international climate negotiations and new treaty commitments, the pervasive social justice dialogue among governments and with civil society and the business sector, and the implications for the people of the developing and developed world. The course will emphasize the practical aspects of implementing measures, including new and pending federal and state regulations, the operation of economic mechanisms such as carbon markets, related energy issues, and the increasing need to focus on climate adaptation.

Optional site visits canceled for summer 2020 due to Covid-19 concerns.

This course qualifies for credit toward the Public Interest and Social Justice Law Certificate (List A), International Law.

Course Components and Grading

Course Reading Materials: Yang, Telesetsky, Harmon-Walker, and Percival, Comparative and Global Environmental Law and Policy (2020).

Grading:

33% Final Paper (7-10 pages), due Monday June 15, 2020

33% Quizzes and Short Writing Assignments

34% Class participation, presentations, and leading of class discussions

Based on student choice, the final paper will address either 1) an assigned question/topic for the class or 2) a topic approved by the instructor.

Office Hours and Outside-of-Class Availability:

Due to Covid-19 considerations, I expect to conduct all meetings with students by Zoom or other tele/videoconference method.

Contact Info:

My office telephone number is 408-551-6037. My e-mail address is tyang@scu.edu.

Tentative Topics

Note: This schedule and the reading assignments are subject to changes, which will be announced in class.

May 26 (Tuesday):

- a. Course Introduction and the Problem of Collective Action
- b. Climate Science – Background & Mitigation

May 27 (Wednesday):

- a. Climate Change – Adaptation
- b. Climate Change - Geoengineering

May 28 (Thursday):

- a. Introduction to Public International Law
- b. The Climate Change Treaties

May 29 (Friday):

- a. Tools for Holding Corporations Accountable for Climate Change
- b. Corporate Social Responsibility Efforts: Corporate Env. Policies, Supply Chains, & Certifications

June 1 (Monday):

- a. Intergenerational Equity & Climate Justice
- b. Sustainability

June 2 (Tuesday):

- a. Environmental Law & EIA
- b. Environmental Law & CO2 Trading (International & California)

June 3 (Wednesday):

- a. Natural Resources Law & Public Trust Doctrine
- b. Energy Law and Energy Efficiency

June 4 (Thursday):

- a. Climate Change & Human Rights
- b. Climate Refugees
- c. Rights of Nature