ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND NATURAL RESOURCES CURRICULUM

ADVANCED OIL AND GAS CONTRACTING focuses on drafting exercises for documents often encountered in oil and gas practice, from simple one-page notices to provisions in joint operating agreements. Oil and Gas Law highly recommended as a prerequisite. Course size limited. 2 credits.

Biodiversity Conservation examines U.S. and international law and private efforts designed to protect wildlife, preserve endangered species, and conserve a diversity of species and habits. 2 credits.

Clean Air Act focuses upon the legal requirements for air pollution control under the federal Clean Air Act, from air quality standards to state and federal controls on sources of air pollution and innovative market-based approaches. Special attention to legal disputes about air quality planning for the Houston-Galveston area. 2 credits.

Coastal Zone Management/Oceans Law deals with the origin and present status of the 1972 National Coastal Zone Management Act and subsequent coastal management programs adopted by virtually all coastal states. 2 credits.

Energy Law and Policy surveys the laws governing the production and use of oil and gas, coal, hydropower, and nuclear energy as well as the deregulation and restructuring of the gas and electricity sectors. 3 credits.

Environmental Enforcement and Practice considers the role of the environmental lawyer as business counselor, negotiator of business deals, legislative or regulatory lobbyist, and prosecutor or defender of private parties accused of violations, and the legal doctrines that apply in each of these contexts. 2 credits.

Environmental Externship places students in governmental or public service organizations involved in the field of environmental law. 3 credits.

Environmental Law introduces the goals, strategies, concepts, and legal processes of environmental law, with emphasis on a few major environmental statutes and regulations controlling pollution. 3 credits.

Environmental Liability Management covers the bases of liability and business strategies to reduce or avoid liability resulting from manufacture, use, and disposal of hazardous or toxic materials, including liability and its management in the context of real estate transactions. 2 credits.

Environmental Interagency Cooperation focuses on the substantive and procedural problems that arise in dealing with the multiple agencies that implement environmental and related laws and policies, with particular attention to barriers to and problems with interagency cooperation. Includes both classroom and clinical components. 3 credits.

Hazardous Waste Law focuses on the laws regulating the current disposal of waste and the clean-up of old waste sites, as well as toxic torts. 3 credits.

International Energy Transactions studies overseas petroleum transactions, including negotiation and contracting with host countries and national oil companies, operating aspects of production, and product distribution and transportation. 3 credits.

International Environmental Law covers basic principles of international law and selected environmental treaties through which the world community is responding to transboundary and global environmental problems such as waste disposal, climate change, and loss of biodiversity. 3 credits.

International Trade & Environment explores the ways in which international trade affects the environment—positively and negatively—and the degree to which the law of international trade (as expressed in the WTO, NAFTA, etc.) constrains domestic and international environmental law policy choices. The course involves a substantial amount of international trade law, but always in the context of its relationship to environmental protection. Some notorious trade cases, such as the “tuna-dolphin” case, the “shrimp-turtle” case, and the “beef hormones” case, will be covered. 3 credits.
**LAND USE** deals with the basic legal issues arising in the government control of land, including eminent domain, takings, and zoning. 3 credits.

**LAW OF THE SEA** will explore the various international and national legal regimes that govern issues involving the transit and use of the world’s oceans, and marine related resources, with an emphasis on jurisdictional and environmental issues arising in the Gulf of Mexico area generally, and Texas territorial waters, in particular. 2 credits.

**NATURAL RESOURCES LAW** surveys the mechanisms for the management, use, and preservation of natural resources, including wildlife, wilderness, rivers, national parks, wetlands, coastal zones, minerals, and timber. 3 credits.

**OIL & GAS** examines property concepts applied to oil and gas (such as trespass, adverse possession, and cotenancy); the rights and duties of parties to an oil and gas lease; and state conservation laws such as compulsory pooling and unitization. 3 credits.

**REGULATED INDUSTRIES** focuses on the regulation and deregulation of transportation (surface and air), communication (long distance telephone and cable), and “natural monopolies” (local telephone and electric power). The course examines the regulatory statutes that establish government agencies to supervise entry, rates and services. 3 credits.

**SPECIAL TOPICS IN ENERGY LAW SEMINAR** explores selected issues affecting energy production and use. 2-3 credits.

**SPECIAL TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SEMINAR** explores selected issues such as sustainable development, market-based approaches to environmental law, environmental justice, environmental land use management, and global climate change. 2-3 credits.

**WATER LAW** studies state and federal laws concerning the ownership and control of water resources from lakes, rivers, and aquifers with an emphasis on Texas water law. 2-3 credits.

**OTHER RELATED COURSES**

- ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
- ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION
- ANTITRUST
- CORPORATE LAW
- INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
- INTERNATIONAL FINANCE
- INTERNATIONAL PROJECT FINANCE
- LICENSING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER
- PROJECT FINANCE
- SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE AND THE LAW