

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER

Fall 2026: WRS International Energy Law: Global Regulation and Impact

Course: Law 7397 - 3 Credits
Class meetings: 2:30 p.m.–4 p.m. MW
Professor: Chinonso Anozie. Office number: 341 E
Email: canozie@uh.edu.
Phone: 713:743-4980
Supplementary hours: Tuesday 12.30 p.m. – 2.30 p.m. or by appointment

“Energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, increased social equity, and an environment that allows the world to thrive.” — United Nations

Course Description

International Energy Law: Global Regulation and Impact course examines the relationship between international law, global energy systems, and natural resource activities. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the legal and policy frameworks governing the extraction, production, management, and transportation of energy and natural resources, as well as trade and investment in this sector. The course also explores the intersection of the global extractive energy industry and environmental regulation through real-world examples and case studies. In addition, it introduces sustainability governance in energy and natural resource development and the use of energy policy as a global enforcement tool, preparing students to engage critically with these issues in their future careers.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to

- a. Identify the core principles underlying global energy production, regulation, and natural resource activities.
- b. Apply these principles to analyze global energy and climate challenges.
- c. Conduct independent, in-depth research on the intersection of energy production, extraction, sustainability, climate change, and renewable energy policy.
- d. Develop expertise in at least two critical areas of global energy regulation and the extractive industry.

A. Primary Teaching Methods

I will use a variety of instructional methods depending on the topic. Some sessions will involve lectures, while others will require students to work collaboratively in groups under my supervision. Students should be prepared to respond to questions and problems drawn from the casebook as well as those discussed in class. Our discussions will examine the law as it

currently stands, how it might be improved, and whether reform is necessary. I may also invite guest speakers to share practical experiences and insights.

This course is offered face-to-face, and students are expected to be physically present in the classroom for all class sessions.

B. Course Materials

Required Readings

- ✓ **International Energy Law, Second Edition by Mohammad Naseem, Saman Naseem (2021)**
- ✓ **Research Handbook on International Energy Law, Edited by Kim Talus. (2014)**
- ✓ **The International Law of Energy (Cambridge Studies in International and Comparative Law, Series Number 164)**

There is no mandatory requirement to purchase these books. However, I will have the library place the book on reserve for student use. I will also provide additional readings not included in the assigned books.

C. Supplementary Hours

The supplementary hours are Tuesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. or by appointment. This is the time students can use to discuss any further questions about the class material or any other issue about the class. Please email me to schedule a meeting if you have a conflict with the supplementary hours. I can also meet on Zoom (via appointment). I may also be available to meet right after class. Please check with me.

D. Communication

I will communicate with students via CougarNet email, Canvas, and through in-class announcements. I will use the CougarNet email to respond to course-related inquiries, such as grade queries or progress reports, for FERPA reasons. I will also post assignments and class exercises on Canvas. I recommend setting up instant Canvas notifications. Each student is responsible for checking their Canvas accounts for any class information.

NAME PLAQUES: I will request support to provide students in the class with name plaques. Pick up yours before the first day of class. The instructor values proper appellation; therefore, your name plaque must be placed in front of you for every class meeting. It is crucial for the instructor to address you correctly.

E. Class Seating:

After the first day of class, you cannot change your seat without my prior express permission. Take **the time to select** your first seat on the first day. I will bring name plaques on the first day of class. Each student **MUST** place his/her name plaque in front of them from the first day of class till the last day of class.

F. Grading and Class Participation

Grades are assigned pursuant to the UHLC Handbook. Grades will be determined as follows: Class Participation - 20%, Assignments - 10%, and Final Paper - 70%.

G.

The class qualifies for the Upper-Level Writing Course Requirement. All students are required to submit a final research paper at the end of the class. Students must also submit the first draft of the paper. Every student **MUST** schedule an individual meeting with me after submitting their outline and after their first draft to receive one-on-one feedback on their writing. Failure to do so means you have not satisfied the upper-level writing course requirement.

H.

The topic and outline must be approved in advance, and an approval request, including the topic and outline, must be emailed to me by **Sept 18th. 2026, 11.59 p.m.** The outline should include an introduction, a thesis statement, major arguments supporting the thesis, a conclusion, and a bibliography. The outline should be about 1-3 pages. It takes a while to find a topic, and students should invest time in finding a good topic. The topic could be a recent court decision, current legal scheme, proposed legislation, or policy, but it must be focused on or connected to an international energy issue. Please contact me if you are having difficulty finding a topic.

I. Quality

Your final paper should be of publishable quality. It should present a narrow, engaging, and topical thesis relevant to your proposed area of investigation that significantly furthers legal understanding. The paper must provide a well-reasoned, well-written, well-documented, persuasive, and well-organized justification supporting its thesis. A mere survey of a topic without making a sound argument in favor of a particular position will not suffice. Plausible objections to the thesis must be considered and answered. Your paper must also demonstrate its relevance and place in relation to contemporary legal literature: e.g., it must accurately describe the current understanding of a particular issue and state how, very specifically, it furthers understanding of that issue. The paper's underlying research must include secondary materials (scholarly articles, treatises, etc.) and primary materials (statutes, case law, etc.).

J. Length

The final version of the paper must be at least 10,000 words, including footnotes, but excluding the bibliography, and must not exceed 11,000 words. The paper must be double-spaced and typed in 12' Times New Roman font. Any paper or assignment submitted by a student may be checked for originality to verify that the student has not plagiarized. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense that may result in loss of credit, suspension, expulsion from law school, or revocation of a degree. Students must correctly attribute authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived, so proper citation is an assessment criterion.

K. Submission of Drafts

All students' first drafts are due on October 21, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. The first draft does not need to be polished or include proper citations. It is not the final product, but it should serve as a working draft. However, I expect it to contain your main arguments and be sufficiently developed to give your reader a clear understanding of your research paper.

All drafts will be workshopped in class. Each student will present their first draft and receive comments, suggestions, and critiques from classmates. Students may choose to use PowerPoint slides or speak during their presentation. I will pair students to read, review, and critique another student's work. I will post the exchange list on Canvas by (TBD) after I have received all drafts. As indicated in the exchange list and the attached instructions, students must exchange drafts with their assigned partners. I must be copied on the email exchange of the draft and the return of the reviewed draft. All reviewed drafts, including notes and suggestions, are due on **(TBD)**. The workshops are scheduled for **(TBD)**. I may add additional dates if necessary. I will post the presentation list on Canvas one week before the scheduled dates.

Each student will have a full class session to workshop their paper, during which they will provide feedback on their peers' work. I will assign each student's paper as the reading for that class period and require all students to read and offer constructive feedback in class.

The deadline for submitting final papers is -----, at 11:59 p.m. Keep in mind that this is the last day of exams, so there will be no extensions. Late submissions will automatically incur a 10-point deduction. I intentionally set this extended deadline to help students produce an excellent final draft. Final papers should be emailed to canozie@uh.edu.

Class participation is essential in this class. Class participation will be assessed throughout the semester. Grading for this course element considers individual and group contributions to class discussions, informed by the relevant readings/cases/articles/discussion questions from class meetings, workshops, and exercises. Questions, including textbook discussion questions, will be assigned regularly or discussed in class.

Each student must choose at least two class sessions in which to serve as the lead discussant. I will circulate the signup sheets by the end of the second week of class. Ensure that you sign up for a class you are sure to attend. Be ready and prepared to lead the class discussion. If you cannot attend class that day, inform me, and I will reschedule you for another day. If no other spots are available, I will require you to write a 650-word (excluding footnotes) comment paper on a topic I choose for the class discussion.

As with any professional meeting, the basic minimum requirement is that you attend each class, be prepared and on time, and complete all class assignments without exception.

Keep in mind that the purpose of law school is to explore ideas. Finally, I expect you to show due respect to your classmates and to the thoughts they express in class.

L. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

The handbook notes that UHLC requires a minimum student attendance of 80%. Any student who attends fewer than the minimum percentage of class sessions (in other words misses more than 5 classes) may be dropped automatically from the course or receive a failing grade. I also reserve the right to notify OSA of a violation of this policy and request that the student be automatically dropped from the class.

Although the school has imposed a mandatory 80% attendance rule, I also reserve the right to lower the final grade by a half-point for students who miss more than four (5) classes. I understand that various situations (ill-health, emergencies, etc.) may arise, requiring students to miss a class; as such, endeavor to inform me in a reasonable fashion as the circumstances permit. I am flexible to that end. Let me also restate that attending classes is crucial, and I emphasize them because they are invaluable for student learning. To that extent, I factor class attendance into grading.

Tardiness may count as an absence. Students should attend class sessions and arrive on time. I expect every student to be seated before class starts at 10.30 a.m. If you arrive late, out of respect for the other students and the class environment, please try to minimize the disturbance. I reserve the right to count a student as absent if they come into class after 10.30 a.m.

I will take attendance by distributing a roll sheet at the beginning of each class. Each student should personally initial by name for that class session. You must initial the roll sheet before leaving the classroom each day. Students who do not sign the roll sheet are deemed absent. Please remember that it is your responsibility to manage your attendance and ensure that your total absences do not exceed the class threshold. If you cannot attend a class or need to arrive late or leave early, kindly notify me via email, if possible. I request this notification mainly because I may call on students during class, and it would be helpful to know in advance if a student is unavailable.

Although you have notified me that you will be absent, that absence still counts toward one of your available absences. Also, I advise you to use caution when taking absences early in the semester. Early-semester absences reduce your “margin for error” for the remainder of the semester and can create difficulties if illness or other life events arise. You need not provide a reason when you notify me that you will miss a class. On the other hand, there is no loss of goodwill on my part toward any student if he or she takes most or all of their absences.

I enter the roll sheet into my records immediately after each class. My records are my source for determining whether a student is within the absence limit. Thus, if you discover on Wednesday that you did not sign the roll sheet on Tuesday but attended on Tuesday, you must not simply sign on Thursday for both Tuesday and Thursday. Instead, please email me requesting a correction for the previous day. I can only consider such correction requests going back one class day.

M. Honor Code

The UHLC Honor Code applies to all aspects of this course. You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code. Please inquire if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code's provisions apply to specific activities or situations related to this course. Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you under the Honor Code to comply with the Honor Code in relation to this course and to comply with the instructions in the course syllabus.

1. PERMISSIVE USE OF AI

Generative artificial intelligence is a form of machine learning that creates new and original output based on the data it has been trained on or has access to, employing algorithms to generate content in response to prompts. Examples of the technology include what are known as generative “large language models” (LLMs). Two well-known LLM implementations are ChatGPT and Claude. LLM output can include text, images, music, code, and more. This syllabus policy covers the textual output of generative LLMs (Ai Generated Work Product) which can include computer code or programs and human-language content. Because Ai Generated Work Product can often mimic human intelligence, it could potentially be used as a substitute for a student's own work product. Such use is potentially problematic to the extent that it becomes a substitute for internalized student understanding of the material or creates a dependency on Ai-Generated Work Product, which may be strictly prohibited in settings that include the bar examination.

Prohibition.

Subject to the exceptions immediately below, your continuing enrollment in this course constitutes your pledge not to generate or to use any Ai-Generated Work Product—whether from yourself or others—in relation to any assessment in this course. The term “assessment” means any graded or ungraded work product for this course that is submitted to the instructor, presented in a class session, or used in an oral or written graded assessment for this course.

A. Exceptions.

The following uses of Ai-Generated Work Product are exceptions to the preceding prohibition. The exceptions' intent is to allow the generation and use of Ai-Generated Work Product for specific, narrowly defined activities related to this course.

- You may generate and use Ai-Generated Work Product for class preparation, although you must disclose the full extent of that use if your instructor asks. You may generate and use Ai-Generated Work Product for study supplements to aid with general understanding of course content. This could take different forms that include creating examples or explanations of a concept, generation of diagrams and flow charts, “gamification” of course content, flash cards for study, or sample questions and answers.
- You may generate and use Ai-Generated Work Product for an outline that summarizes the course content.
- You may use Ai-Generated Work Product to check your originally drafted text for misspellings, grammar and punctuation errors, strength and clarity of prose, verbosity,

effective transitional language and thesis sentences, word choice, excessive passive voice, and like things.

- You may use AI-Generated Work Product for the purpose of language translation.

2. Classroom Behavior

Respect for classmates' and faculty members' thoughts, ideas, and speech is the foundation of the educational process. Threatening behavior in the classroom will not be tolerated. I will, as required, report any such instance to the school authorities. In addition, as a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence.

3. Use of Electronic Devices

The use of electronic devices, including but not limited to phones, during class is prohibited except for laptops used for class purposes only. Refrain from browsing on your laptops during class. It may distract other classmates. Students shall conduct themselves professionally in class and avoid actions that distract the instructor or other students. Using your phone, texting, talking, or any other side activity that distracts the instructor or your classmates during class is considered unprofessional and may be factored into reducing your participation grade. An exception is when the class is on break or when in-class activities require students to speak to one another.

4. Recording of Class

Students may not record all or part of the class, live-stream all or part of the class, or make/distribute screen captures without the instructor's advance written consent. If you have, or believe you may have, a disability that requires you to record class-related activities, please contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center. If you have accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. The instructor may record classes. However, I authorize the publishing of those recordings to students at the end of the semester for review purposes. If you miss class, endeavor to collect notes from other classmates. Read over the notes and come speak with me. I will be more than happy to explain any confusing aspect of the class. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

5. Syllabus Revisions

Except for grading and attendance policies, the information in this syllabus is subject to change with reasonable notice.

6. Copyright Warning

All the course content provided during lectures, including written materials, is protected by copyright laws. Students are strictly prohibited from uploading any material to any course shell, discussion board, or website used by the course instructor or other course forums that is not their original work, unless they comply with all applicable copyright laws. Faculty members have the right to delete any materials that they suspect are infringing copyright

laws. Students are allowed to use class recordings for educational purposes only. Sharing class materials outside the class, including uploading, selling, or distributing course content or notes taken during the course, is strictly prohibited.

7. *Wellness*

Personal Resources Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713- 743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let’s Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. Go to http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html. Discrimination and Sexual Harassment/Misconduct Policy the University is committed to maintaining and strengthening an educational, working and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from discrimination and sexual misconduct. If you have experienced an incident of discrimination or sexual misconduct, there is a confidential reporting process available to you. For more information, please refer to the University system’s Anti-Discrimination Policy SAM 01.D.07 and Sexual Misconduct Policy SAM 01.D.08, available here:

<http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/uhs-policies/sams/01-general-information/index.php>

http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/_docs/sam/01/1d7.pdf
(antidiscrimination)

http://www.uhsystem.edu/compliance-ethics/_docs/sam/01/1d8.pdf
(sexual misconduct)

Please be aware that under the sexual misconduct policy, SAM 01.D.08, faculty are required to report to the University any information received regarding sexual misconduct as defined in the policy. Please note that the reporting obligations under the sexual misconduct policy extend to employees and students. Also, as a required reporting party, Law Center employees and faculty members are not confidential resources.

8. *Security Escorts and Cougar Ride*

UHPD continually works with the University community to make the campus a safe place to learn, work, and live. The security escort service is designed for the community members who have safety concerns and would like to have a Security Officer walk with them, for their safety, as they make their way across campus. Based on availability either a UHPD Security Officer or Police Officer will escort students, faculty, and staff to locations beginning and ending on campus. If you feel that you need a Security Officer to walk with you for your safety, please call 713-743-3333. Arrangements may be made for special needs. Parking and Transportation Services also offers a late-night, on-demand shuttle service called “Cougar Ride” that provides rides to and from all on-campus shuttle stops, as well as the MD Anderson Library, Cougar Village/Moody Towers and the UH Technology Bridge. Rides can be requested through the UH

Go app. Days and hours of operation can be found at <https://uh.edu/af-universityservices/parking/cougar-ride/>.

9. Eating/Drinking

Eating is prohibited in the classroom. Drinking water and non-alcoholic beverages are allowed but must be done respectfully and should not distract the class.

10. Class Coverage

If some material is left uncovered during a class, the next class may start by addressing the pending material before moving on. Students will be accountable for reviewing the uncovered material as part of their readings.

Selected class topics:

1. Global energy Growth and the environment
2. Global energy transition and sustainability
3. Regulation of oil spills
4. Sanctions and energy business
5. International energy investments

Further class readings will be supplied.