

Module Details	
Module Title	International Petroleum Law
Module Code	LAW7033-B
Academic Year	2023/4
Credits	20
School	School of Law
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 7

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Seminars	32
Directed Study	168

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1

Module Aims

This module is an important element of the LLM Natural Resources and Environmental Law and Policy because it will enable students to critically analyse and understand petroleum law and policy and to develop the skills necessary to apply this in a range of practical contexts.

The aim of the module is to develop your knowledge and understanding of some of the key commercial and related legal issues arising from the international oil and gas industry. It provides an overall overview and general understanding of oil and gas and of its operation, of issues relating to exploration and production, of the various contracts and phases involved in exploration and production, and of the environmental protection challenges in exploration and development of petroleum resources.

The module will provide students with an understanding of the key concepts, principles and mechanisms underlying the petroleum legal regime as well as the interrelationship between industrial activities, and in particular energy policy and natural resources governance will form a key part of the module.

Reflecting on the UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 which is focused on Energy Access, this module will explore the practical ways to address the energy access and energy security challenges. It will examine the effectiveness of the international, regional and national legal instruments aimed at governing petroleum resources especially taking cognisance of the global move to transition to a low carbon economy. It will examine developments in the field of petroleum law and encourage students to reflect on the nature, function, strengths and weaknesses of the existing mechanisms aimed at managing petroleum resources.

The module helps students to develop the ability to work with their knowledge of legal principles and apply them to new situations in order to arrive at imaginative and innovative solutions and interpretations in petroleum law and policy. It will also equip students to have mastery of the subject, conduct effective research and to critically analyse and assess the specific climate change issues and apply this learning in the relevant practical context.

It aims to develop excellent communication skills including writing and legal research skills commensurate with LLM level study and advanced scholarship.

This module is also suitable for any other postgraduate programme, where energy law, as well as natural resources governance would be studied.

Outline Syllabus

- Introduction to the basic concepts of oil and gas: basic contractual issues, operation, assignment;
- Ownership, phases of petroleum exploration and development and contractual arrangements and licences;
- Transparency and Good Governance in Oil and Gas
- Financing/funding of oil and gas projects;
- Decommissioning and financial liability;
- Negotiating Petroleum Agreements
- Impact of new technologies and the international protection of new technologies;
- Environmental social and human rights challenges and business responses.
- Beyond Oil: Petroleum Law in the era of Energy Transitions and Climate Change.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
01	Apply the law relating to oil and gas and of the structure, purpose and complexity of arrangements used by the contracting parties in the course of oil and gas exploration and production operations, taking appropriate account of the risks, challenges and emerging issues in the sector.
02	Undertake complex critical evaluation of main legal rules, institutions and procedures relevant to oil and gas, using specialist literature and current research.
03	Demonstrate knowledge of the oil and gas related case law, and address the key elements of related substantive and procedural matters and of a wide range of socio-political, economic and other contextual implications of the area of oil and gas.
04	Critically apply the principles and law in this field to new cases and situations.
05	Apply independent research skills using primary and secondary resources, and be able to communicate key learning both orally and in writing.
06	Critically analyse the future of petroleum law in the Energy Transition and Climate Change era

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Development of a range of transferable skills such as independent study, effective written and oral communication and problem solving. The module uses 32 hours of workshops delivered over 12 weeks to support learning and achievement. The workshops will address the key ethical issues, contributing factors and legal concepts and frameworks related to data protection and privacy law and will include a set of structured learning activities (eg, discussion of pre-read academic materials) that 'scaffold' the learning.

The workshops will also include tasks and discussions on practical aspects of law and ethics, areas of reform and opportunities for further study and self-study.

The learning process is a mix of directed and independent study. Initially you will be directed to study the topics selected by the module team through the provision to you on the virtual learning environment of relevant materials (lecture slides, reading lists etc). The aim of the directed part of the study will be to introduce you to the fundamental legal concepts and principles of the subject area and of relevant learning resources.

Then you will be guided to study the subjects more broadly and independently with the module team setting in the weekly activities research and other tasks, such as search for solution to real life problems and for legal advice to clients, which require independent research and study by you. Independent legal research requires drawing on a variety of both primary and secondary materials and written and oral presentations by you. It also requires development of legal arguments and evaluations personal to you.

The weekly interaction in class will facilitate written and oral communication with the student and the lecturer through discussion of legal issues and debates.

Oral feedback will be given in the class and opportunities for written feedback will be provided. Tutors will be available to meet you individually (face-to-face or online) if requested to discuss further feedback opportunities and review your progress. Formative assessment will be made available to help you better prepare for the summative assessment.

Learning will be directed, supported and reinforced through a series of workshops. The sessions will use theoretical discussions and practical applications of cases and case studies to enable students to think critically about international dimensions of climate change law and policy, with oral feedback given in classes. Some of the sessions may be student-led presentations.

The summative assessment is aimed at testing your ability to meet the learning outcomes of the module. Assessment will be by coursework only. This will comprise a written essay based coursework of 4000 words or equivalent. This will ensure that you are able to apply legally based reasoning to answer conflict based questions. You will be required to undertake a critical analysis of a complex issue in this field applying the principles and law studied in the module. The coursework will require the use of independent research, critical and analytical skills. You will also be expected to use appropriate legal terminology and written communication.

The assessment would be suitable to help students achieve all the learning outcomes of the module and would facilitate the achievements of the learning outcomes of the relevant LLM Programmes as follows:- LLM Natural Resources and Environmental Law and Policy: LO3, LO5, LOs 10-13

Mode of Assessment			
Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework - Written	4000 words Essay	100%

Reading List
To access the reading list for this module, please visit https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

© University of Bradford 2023

<https://bradford.ac.uk>