

Environmental Governance in the Developing World

Summer 2018
Course and Field Study Trip
Information Session

Friday, February 23, 2018

9-10

Oakes 210

What is PEL?

Our program's mission is to strengthen environmental governance and rule of law in Asia.

We believe these outcomes are reinforced through strong laws and legal institutions, highly capable and resourced actors, and pathways for public participation.

We develop advocates, networks, and legal tools that support these goals, thereby enabling improved responses to environmental, energy, and social justice challenges that know no boundaries.



VLS Student Opportunities with PEL

Courses

- Introduction to Chinese law (Spring)
- Comparative Environmental Law Research Seminar (Fall/Spring)
- Environmental Governance in the Developing World (Summer)



Social

- Tea Time with PEL
- Delegations engagement – lectures, lunches

Research and Employment

- Independent Research Projects
- Research Associates – **We're hiring for summer soon!**



Class logistics

Class (2 credits)

- ENV5223
- 8-week summer course
- Fridays 9 am – 12 pm
- June 8- August 3
- Co-taught by Professor Yanmei Lin and William Schulte

Field Study (1 credit)

- ENV5224
- Mid-August
- 1-2 weeks (~10 days)
- Must take class to participate but trip is optional



What's this course all about?

- Course designed to introduce students to the unique challenges regarding the *development, implementation, and enforcement* of environmental governance systems in the developing world
- Main focus is on the domestic environmental law of developing countries, with specific focus on China and Southeast Asia
- Course will draw significantly from case studies involving US-Asia Partnership for Environmental Law's work
- However, students are encouraged to apply the principles discussed to other parts of the world as well
- Prior coursework in environmental law is not necessary, but very helpful

What's this course all about?

- What is a “developing country”?
- What is required for a strong environmental governance system?
 - Clear and implementable environmental laws;
 - Accordance with Principle 10 of Rio Declaration;
 - Accountability of environmental decision-makers;
 - Capacity of all stakeholders
- How can “developed” countries effectively aid the development of environmental governance systems?

What's this course all about?

- Why focus on the developing world?
 - Large majority of the world's population, as well as the fastest growing populations
 - Fastest growing economies
 - Energy and resource needs
 - Weak and ineffective governance systems
 - Mekong region especially vulnerable to climate change



Issues and Themes to be Explored

- Developing Environmental Laws and Mechanisms
 - Cambodia Natural Resources and Environment Code
 - 2015 Amendments to China's EPL
 - Myanmar's Environmental Management Fund
- Participation, Information and A2J
 - Environmental Public Interest Litigation in China
 - Myanmar's Environmental Impact Assessment System
 - Operational Grievance Mechanisms
 - State harassment of environmental advocates
- Challenges to implementation

Course Materials and Assessment

- No course textbook
- Curated list of both primary and secondary reading materials will be provided
 - Law, regulations, policies, academic articles, NGO and INGO reports, etc.
 - Reading materials will be provided in the syllabus
- Assessment
 - Class participation (10%), Research Presentation (20%), Research Paper (70%)

Field study trip

- Optional, and worth 1 academic credit
- Designed to provide students with on-the-ground exposure to the issues explored in class
- Visits and discussions with local advocates, lawyers, and potentially government officials
- Site visits
- Potential to link student research with current issues and provide presentations and discussion during the field trip



Visit with Vishnu Law Group,
Phnom Penh

Exploring the village of
Phnom Chi





Phnom Chi Community Meeting on Collaborative Management of Protected Areas



Arriving at Phnom Chi Mountain



AT VERMONT LAW SCHOOL



Hiking Phnom Chi



Visit with Vietnam National University School of Law



Visit with Center for Environment and Community Research – local environmental NGO based in Hanoi, Vietnam



Trang An UNESCO World Heritage site – Ninh Binh Province, Vietnam

Numerous cement factories en route to Trang An



Village visit in Binh Luc, Ha Nam, Vietnam



When traveling in SEA...



Field Study Trip 2018

- Itinerary largely depends on on-the-ground situation and opportunities, so 2018 itinerary is still being developed
- Other potential sites for 2018 include:
 - Mondulkiri Province, Cambodia
 - Kunming, Yunnan Province, China
 - Yangon, Myanmar
 - Chiang Mai, Thailand (Earth Rights International)

Field study trip logistics

- “Interview” with students planning to join
- Cost and Financial Aid
 - Financial Aid will authorize up to \$4500 for the trip
 - 2018 trip cost each student approximately \$2700
- Visas and Insurance
- Students will be responsible for purchasing their own air tickets and hotel stays, under guidance of instructor
- Approximately 10 days following conclusion of course
- Students encourage to remain and travel after trip

Travel Considerations

- Passport up to date?
- Visa requirements?
- Travel health insurance – emergency evacuation



Sample Budget and Support Options

Flights			
US-SE Asia	1	1300	1300
BKK-PP	1	120	120
PP-Hanoi	1	120	120
Lodging			
BKK	1	60	60
Phnom Penh	3	60	180
Hanoi	3	60	180
Visas			
Cambodia	1	30	30
Vietnam	1	42	42
Food			
per day	8	30	240
Cambodia Field Trip			
Transportation	1	60	60
Lodging	3	17	51
Food and Supplies	1	60	60
Hanoi Field Trip			
Fixed Cost	1	90	90
Local Transportation (Airports to Hotel r/t)			
Bangkok	1	12	12
Phnom Penh	1	12	12
Hanoi	1	12	12
Total			2569

Students averaged
\$2500-2800 last year

ICLP Travel Grant Fund

- ❖ Created by an alum who wants VLS students to participate in international education regardless of their financial means.
- ❖ Awards will be made to students who are in good academic standing and have high financial need.
- ❖ Individual awards will be up to \$2000.

→for an application, please go to the ICLP website or e-mail Megan at mmurray@vermontlaw.edu

Financial Aid

Most students are able to use federal and/or private loans to cover their cost of living expenses while abroad.

These expenses may include:

- Airfare to and from host institution abroad
- Housing/Food
- Public Transportation

Students needing additional funding may be required to show documentation for any budget increases.

We also may take into consideration exchange rates in cases where the dollar is weak relative to the host institution's currency and it may not go as far as it would here in the U.S.

Questions?

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Director of Financial Aid at Vermont Law School

Questions?

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