



UNIVERSITY OF LAY ADVENTISTS OF KIGALI

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Land and Environmental Legislation (LEL 209410)

Course outline

By Dr. Jonas Nzabamwita (+250798873619).

1. General information about the course

Course Title and Code	Land and Environmental Legislation (LEL209410)
Pre-requisite Modules	03REC212, 03REC211
Number of Credits	10 Credits, 30 Hours in Total
Class Time in a Week	2 Hours and 30 Minutes
Administering Faculty	Faculty of Environmental Studies
Mode of Delivery	Blended/ Hybrid Method, mostly face-to-face.
Schedule of the Semester	From 01 February to 01 June 2025. (14 Weeks)

2. Course description, aim and objectives

The module of Land and Environmental Legislation introduces students to the body of laws, regulations, and policies that govern the protection, management, and sustainable use of land and natural resources. It explores legal frameworks designed to prevent and mitigate environmental degradation resulting from human activities such as pollution, habitat destruction, and resource depletion. The course adopts an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on principles of law, environmental science, economics, and ethics to provide a comprehensive understanding of how legislation supports environmental conservation and sustainable development.

Course Aim

This module aims to equip students with a solid understanding of national and international legal instruments that regulate land use and environmental protection, and to develop their capacity to critically analyze and apply these laws in promoting sustainable management of natural resources.

Course Objectives

By the end of this module, students should be able to:

1. Explain the fundamental concepts and principles underpinning land and environmental legislation.
 2. Identify key national and international legal frameworks governing environmental protection and natural resource management.
 3. Analyze the role of environmental legislation in addressing issues such as pollution, resource depletion, and biodiversity loss.
 4. Evaluate the effectiveness of legal and policy measures in promoting sustainable land use and environmental conservation.
 5. Apply relevant legislative principles to real-world environmental management scenarios and case studies.
 6. Appreciate the ethical, economic, and social dimensions that influence environmental law and policy-making.
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3. Requirements and General University Policy

In this course, we will be adhering to the rules and policies of the University of Lay Adventists of Kigali (UNILAK). Attendance for both in-person and online classes is compulsory, and students must submit their academic work per the requirements of the UNILAK. Students are always required to check the instructions from the Faculty of Environmental Studies. If there are any changes and modifications, reasonable notice and adequate communication will be given with explanations. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the students to familiarize themselves with the university policies, check all communications (emails, WhatsApp messages as well as Short Message Services (SMSes), and take notes of all changes and modifications.

4. Assessment methods and strategies

The assessment will comprise class activities and written tests, including the Living Lab project presentations. There will be a final examination at the end of the course. Marks for assessment are allocated as follows:

Class Activity	Marks
Lecture Attendance and Class Participation	10
Individual Assignments	10
Living Lab Project Presentation	10
Class Tests	30
Final exam	40
Total Marks	100

5. Class Schedules

1. WEEK ONE (February 8-12)

- Class Introduction
- Career prospects for students pursuing courses in Land and Environmental Legislation
- Introduction to Living Lab (What is the Living Lab and its objectives)
- Where and how does the Living Lab fit into the Land and Environmental Legislation course?
- Living Lab projects and assigning students to different groups for the project.

2. WEEK TWO (February 13-19)

- Introduction to environmental legislation

- Basic concepts in environmental legislation
 - Scope of environmental legislation
 - Living Lab Project discussions and demonstrations of previous examples and ideas of Living Lab projects of other students.
- 3. WEEK THREE (February 20-26)**
- General principles of environmental legislation
 - Methods and theories of environmental legislation
 - Living Lab Group Projects Brainstorming
- 4. WEEK FOUR (February 27-03 March)**
- Management of natural resources
 - Ownership rights to natural resources
 - Problems in the management and conservation of natural resources
 - Living Lab project – Problem identification and progress reporting
- 5. WEEK FIVE (March 04-10)**
- Lease and concession provisions for natural resources
 - Land management in Rwanda
 - Pillars of land management in Rwanda
 - Groups to report on the proposed problem solution (Living Lab Project)
- 6. WEEK SIX (March 11- 17)**
- Environmental protection in the national policy context
 - National strategy for transformation
- 7. WEEK SEVEN (March 18 -24)**
- Environmental legislation implementation framework
 - Policy and oversight institutions
 - Financing institutions
 - Regulating institutions
 - The role of central government.
 - Lecturer (Dr. Jonas Nzabamwita) to check on the Living Lab project progress
- 8. WEEK EIGHT (March 25-31)**
- Legislation regarding the conservation of water and marine biodiversity

- Conservation of land and air reserves
- Conservation of all biological diversity
- All the Living Lab groups meet for project discussions. In-class group discussions

9. WEEK NINE (April 01-07)

- Human interaction with the environment
- Waste management

10. WEEK TEN (April 08-13)

- Pollution and waste-related legislation:
- Major global environmental issues: Pollution; global warming; and climate change
- The lecturer conducts a final check of the Living Lab projects
- Living Lab Groups do a mock-up presentation in class. In-class presentation

11. WEEK ELEVEN (April 13 -20)

- Land and Environmental Legislation in the global context
- Review of major environmental policy documents
- Discussions, presentations, and video clips of the Living Lab project

12. WEEK TWELVE (April 21- 27)

- Environmental conservation in the regional and international context
- Institutional frameworks of environmental conservation
- International treaties and agreements on environmental conservation
- Living Lab report review

13. WEEK THIRTEEN (April 28- 06 May). ASSESSMENTS

- Assignments, attendance, and class participation
- Continuous Assessment Tests (CAT)
- Final Exam
- Living Lab final project presentation and marks awarding.

Resources and additional reading materials

1. Gadgil, M. and Guha, R. (1993). *This Fissured Land: An Ecological History of India*. University of California Press, Berkeley, USA. (pp. 1-245).
2. McCully, P. (1996). Rivers no more: the environmental effects of dams, In: *Silenced Rivers: The Ecology and Politics of Large Dams*, Zed Books, New York, USA. Page. 29-64.
3. Raven, P.H, Hassenzahl, D.M., Hager, M.C, Gift, N.Y. and Berg, L.R. (2015). *Environment*, 9th Edition. Wiley Publishing, USA. Chapter 5 (Pages: 97-99); Chapter 16 (Pages: 299-318).
4. Singh, J.S., Singh, S.P. and Gupta, S.R. (2017). *Ecology, Environmental Science and Conservation*. S. Chand Publishing, New Delhi. Chapters 24 (Pages: 599-690); Chapter 26 (Pages: 664-714).
5. Primack, R. B. (2014). *Essentials of Conservation Biology*, Oxford University Press, USA. Page. 1-536.