

## **Rationale for the creation of a new energy and climate change course with different content and learning outcomes:**

For one year we offered JUR-3619 in the fall semester for NOMPEL and in the spring semester as an elective course. Then, the only difference between both courses was the work requirement. NOMPEL JUR-3619 requires the delivery of a mandatory group assignment with oral presentation and the writing of an individual report on the mandatory group assignment.

Students that take NOMPEL benefit from extensive coverage of environmental law, climate law, and also from coverage of some aspects of international investment law, trade law, and energy law in Upsala and Joensuu before taking their semester at UiT. This then allows us to take a deeper and more comprehensive coverage of energy and climate change law issues at UiT.

However, exchange students and students from the integrated master that choose to take energy law do not benefit from such previous knowledge. To apply to them the same course would be too overwhelming, as demonstrated when we held the course. The content and difficulty of the course had to be adjusted in order for the students to be able to follow. The expectations that exchange students and students from the integrated master would be able to fully understand EU/EEA law were not met.

Consequently, it is important to introduce adjustments to the elective course, adjusting the degree of difficulty, the required previous knowledge, and by removing the requirement of having knowledge in the energy and climate legislation of the Nordic countries.

The proposed course will focus on key EU energy and climate change law.

As for the assessment mode, the 6 hours home exam is recommended for the same reasons that were given for NOMPEL JUR-3619 (which were accepted).

## **JUR-X EU Energy and Climate Change Law**

### **Type of course**

EU energy and climate change law is a course at a master level.

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## Admission Requirements and Previous Knowledge

Students at the Integrated master's degree programme in law may choose this course as a partial fulfilment of the requirements for the elective part of the programme's fifth year, cf. Programme Specification for the Master's Degree in Law at the University of Tromsø (Studieplan for graden Master i rettsvitenskap ved UiT med tilhørende fagbeskrivelse for 5. avdeling).

Followed by necessary application and admission process, other students (such as exchange students) may also choose this course, cf. Regulations for the Elective Component in the Master's Degree Programme in Law (Reglement for den valgfrie delen av masterstudiet i rettsvitenskap) (Regulation).

Students who do not have admission to the Master of Law-studies at the Faculty of Law must contact the Faculty for information about required qualifications and application process for this course.

A basic knowledge of EU law is desirable.

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## Course Content

This course provides students first an introductory but broad understanding of the policy context and of the legal framework that underpins the intricate relationship between climate change and energy within the European Union. For this, the course presents an overview of policy concerns and of the international climate change regime (UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement), as well as an outline EU regulation of relevance in the context of climate change/energy transition. Then the course adopts a more in-depth approach to key legal instruments and provisions of EU law on: renewable energy and micro and distributed generation; energy efficiency; emissions trading; and carbon capture and storage/carbon capture usage and storage.

A list of the topics covered by the course is available hereunder:

### 1. Introduction to Energy and Climate Change:

- The links between climate change, sustainable development, and energy
- Nature of energy markets and the structure of the energy industry
- Energy production and consumption, and GHG emissions in the EU

### 2. The Relationship between EU Energy and Climate Policies

- Balancing energy security, competitiveness, and climate change goals
- EU Energy and climate change policies

### 3. The Climate Change Legal Regime and its Implications for the Energy Sector

- UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement and their implications for the energy sector
- EU national determined contribution under the Paris Agreement

### 4. Renewable Energy and Micro and Distributed Generation:

- The role of renewable energy in energy transition towards a decarbonized economy
- Barriers and incentives to the development of renewable energy
- Regulation of renewable energy under EU law
- Microgrids, smart grids and meters, and energy "prosumers"

### 5. Energy Efficiency:

- The role of energy efficiency and micro and distributed generation in energy transition towards a decarbonized economy
- Regulation of energy efficiency under EU law

### 6. Emissions Trading:

- The role of emissions trading for the reduction of emissions
- The EU emissions trading scheme

### 7. Carbon Capture and Storage/Carbon Capture Usage and Storage:

- The role of carbon capture and storage (CCS) and carbon capture usage and storage (CCUS) for the reduction of emissions
- Regulation of carbon capture and storage under EU law

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## Objectives of the course

*Knowledge:*

A student who successfully completes the course shall have acquired:

- knowledge of the interdependence between climate change and energy;
- knowledge of the international climate change legal regime and its implications for the energy sector;
- advanced knowledge of the key provisions of the EU legal and regulatory regimes for renewable energy and micro and distributed generation; energy efficiency; emissions trading; and carbon capture and storage/carbon capture usage and storage;
- general knowledge of climate change and energy policies of the EU;

*Skills:*

A student who successfully completes the course is able to:

- explain the policy objectives, principles, laws and regulations on energy and climate change from an European perspective;
- identify, analyze, and solve legal problems of both theoretical and practical character related to energy and climate change;
- apply knowledge gained of energy law, climate change law, and regulatory concepts in a critical and independent way;
- recognize and discuss limitations of the current applicable law;
- propose legal solutions fostering energy transition into a sustainable, low carbon and resource efficient economy;
- construct and communicate legal reasoning, orally and in writing, in a clear and precise manner;
- have some appreciation for and apply comparative method as a means for examining the legal regulation of a particular industrial sector.

*General competence:*

A student who successfully completes the course will be able to:

- Apply the knowledge and skills obtained in the field of Energy and Climate Change Law individually and in cooperation with others;
- Investigate applicable legal and regulatory framework in order to find solutions for a particular energy-related problem;
- Communicate reasoning within the field of Energy and Climate Change Law in a clear and precise manner, orally and in writing to the academic community and the general public;
- Identify and reflect on ethical dilemmas that may arise within the Energy and Climate Change Law area in particular and deal with these in a responsible manner;

- Evaluate and respect different views on energy-climate change dilemmas and regulatory approaches.

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## Language of instruction

English

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## Teaching methods

This course uses interactive and dynamic teaching methods. The course will consist of both lectures and seminars comprising a total of 30 hours. Guest lectures may be included as an addition. The seminars are primarily based on a set of problem-based practical cases, group assignments, and video analysis triggering critical reflection and discussion.

Students are encouraged to participate actively during the lectures and seminars. Students are expected to be prepared for lectures and seminars by studying the corresponding literature of the curriculum. Students should study independently, individually or in study groups, in periods when there are no lectures or seminars.

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## Assessment

The assessment for this course is conducted through a six hours home written exam. The exam may include theoretical and/or practical case questions. The grading scale is from A to F, where A constitutes the best grade and F constitutes fail. Students who fail their examination are entitled to re-sit the examination, cf. regulations for examinations at the University of Tromsø Sec.22.

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## Date of examination

The exam is held at the end of the semester.

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## Schedule

See [timeplan.uit.no](http://timeplan.uit.no)