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Catalogue Description  

ENST 320 Energy Law and Case Studies  

Oil & Gas Law is an integral part of the operations and functioning of the oil and gas industry. This course provides a general understanding of the key legal aspects and the legal framework within which the industry operates with the purpose of having an insight into the international and regional oil and gas industry. This course also provides an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the legal issues as they relate to the oil and gas industry, mainly the exploration and production stages. The module encompasses a wide range of issues including world petroleum regimes, ownership, sovereignty, regulation, corporate governance and corporate social responsibility, health and safety and decommissioning of offshore installations.

Course Overview  

This module is a graduate course that provides an in-depth review of the basic principles of oil and gas law. Major legal systems around the world, including the US, Europe and the Middle East as well as the international energy law, will be discussed throughout the module and case studies. Students will learn basic principles of oil and gas law including notably the following: contractual frameworks adopted in the oil and gas industry, dispute resolution mechanisms, management of political risks in developing countries and others.

The course also covers the environmental aspect of the oil and gas industry (including the health and safety regime of various jurisdictions) as well as the key developments in the field of renewable energy (such as solar, wind, and geothermal). While drawing on specific case studies, this course will introduce the students to the basic regulatory frameworks of energy and provide the students with knowledge about important and recent issues related to energy from a legal and regulatory perspective.
Course Objectives

- To introduce you to the basic concepts of energy law and regulations;
- To help you gain insight into both the theory and practice of energy law;
- To have a general overview of the key contractual arrangements in the oil and gas industry as well as the dispute resolution mechanisms and tax clauses included in such arrangements;
- To introduce you to the key players in the field of energy law;
- To be familiar with the current issues in the field of energy;
- To be able to assess and critique important laws in the oil and gas sector;
- To be able to apply the acquired skills derived from the different approaches and perspectives to analyze specific regulations;
- To analyze and communicate cases of energy law and regulation.

Required Textbook/Core Reading List

- Stevens P, National oil companies and international oil companies in the Middle East: Under the shadow of government and the resource nationalism cycle, (2008) 1 JWELB 5

Further reading material and template contracts will be provided throughout the course.

Topics

- Introduction to Oil and Gas Law

- World Petroleum Agreements (Part 1): Overview of the contractual frameworks that are the most common in the Oil and Gas industry (Concession Agreements, PSCs, Service contracts, JOAs, unitization agreements). Review of clauses including tax clauses

- World Petroleum Agreements (Part 2): Overview of the contractual frameworks that are the most common in the Oil and Gas industry (Concession Agreements, PSCs, Service contracts, JOAs, unitization agreements). Review of clauses including tax clauses

- Dispute Resolution in Oil and Gas Contracting: Overview of adjudicative as well as more consensual methods of conflict resolution in the oil and gas industry.
• Managing Political Risks in the Oil and Gas Industry of Developing Countries through contractual provisions: Stabilization clauses.

• The Lebanese Oil and Gas regulatory regime.

• Renewable Energy: Overview of the rapidly increasing importance and competitiveness of renewable energy technologies, concerns about sustainability, climate change issues, and the policy thrust in many countries towards to zero carbon economies.

• Environmental Aspects of Oil and Gas Law: Health and Safety Regime.

• Decommissioning of Offshore Installations.

• Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility in the Oil and Gas industry.

Course Learning Outcomes

• The student develops an understanding of the basic concepts of energy law and regulations;
• The student is able to bridge the theory and practice of energy law;
• The student identifies key players in the field of energy law;
• The student understands the key contractual arrangements in the oil and gas industry;
• The student recognizes current issues in energy;
• The student is able to assess and critique important laws in the oil and gas sector;
• The student is able to apply the acquired skills derived from the different approaches and perspectives to analyze specific regulations;
• The student is able to analyze and communicate cases of energy law and regulation.

Assessment and Grading

Participation and Attendance: 15%
Mid Term Exam (Week 7): 25%
Paper/Presentation: 20%
Final Exam: 40%