



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Ocean Resources Law and Policy

2122-1-F7502Q041

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#### Aims

The course in “Ocean Resources Law & Policy” aims at providing students with a detailed overview of ocean affairs and the law of the sea in specific regional contexts.

#### Contents

With a view to obtaining an overview of geographic and political contexts that differ greatly around the world, paying specific attention to the challenges posed by climate change or by political tensions between States, as well as to specific interests of students enrolled in “Marine Sciences”, the regions considered will be the **Arctic Ocean**, the **Mediterranean Sea**, the Indian Ocean (in particular, **the Maldives**) and the peculiar situation of the **marine spaces surrounding Antarctica** south of the so-called Antarctic Convergence.

#### Detailed program

The program will analyze the law and policies applicable in each region, as well as the particular geographic conditions that have resulted in specific delimitation and environmental agreements. In specific cases, also navigation will be a substantial issue discussed in class. The program will cover, in each case, a legal overview of the relevant coastal States and the status of the relevant maritime domains. For example, with regards to the Arctic Ocean, title to territory is hardly a major issue (nevertheless, the course will address the legal status of Hans Island, the Svalbard archipelago, Greenland, Sverdrup Islands). The most difficult and pressing issues of international law in the Arctic concern the maritime domain, therefore the course will focus on: the relevant maritime boundaries, including the difficult question of the Beaufort Sea; the extended continental shelves claimed by the Arctic States; Arctic Straits, including a legal analysis of navigation through the “Northwest Passage” (through the Canadian Arctic Archipelago) and the “Northern Sea Route” (along the Russian coast); future shipping routes and coastal

States navigational policies; submarine voyages; marine environmental protection, with a focus on the impacts of climate change; and indigenous rights.

## **Prerequisites**

Having attended the course in "International Law of the Sea". In fact, the course in "Ocean Resources Law & Policy" will take for granted the knowledge of marine spaces and related legal regimes under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Montego Bay, 1982) and international customary law. The situation of the marine spaces surrounding Antarctica below the Antarctic Convergence will be addressed through the study of the Antarctic Treaty (Washington, 1959), as well as the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (Canberra, 1980) and the work of the relevant Commission.

## **Teaching form**

Lectures.

## **Textbook and teaching resource**

Legal materials and maritime charts will be distributed through the e-learning page.

## **Semester**

Second semester.

## **Assessment method**

Oral exam.

## **Office hours**

Students may contact directly the teacher via email at [ilaria.tani@unimib.it](mailto:ilaria.tani@unimib.it)

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