

# Department of Life and Environmental Sciences 2018/2019

<b>Resubmission Assignment Brief</b>		
<b>Programme(s):</b> MSc Green Economy	<b>Unit Name:</b> Environmental Law and Social Justice	
<b>Unit Leader:</b> Chris Shiel	<b>Assignment set by:</b> Chris Shiel	
<b>Date Due:</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	<b>% of unit mark</b> Part 1 - Task Portfolio 50%  Part 2 - Written report 50%	<b>Length:</b> Part 1: 2500 words  Part 2: 2500 words  Word count excludes references/tables/figures/appendices.  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excluding references
Assignment is to be electronically submitted using Turnitin by 12:30 pm <b>BST</b> on the due date (please allow sufficient time to upload document before the deadline)		
<b>Title of Assignment: Environmental Law and Social Justice</b>		
<p><i>Instructions</i></p> <p>Assignment detail:            The assignment comprises TWO parts (Parts 1 &amp; 2). You are required to complete BOTH parts. Ensure that you use the BU Harvard System when referencing and presenting your consolidated bibliography.</p> <p><b><u>Part 1. Unit Tasks (50% of total mark for this Unit).</u></b></p> <p>You are required to <b>resubmit</b> the five individual written tasks and revise and <b>resubmit</b> the reflective piece on the five tasks that were discussed. You will need to go back and read the contributions to the discussion in the discussion forums. <b>Please note:</b> when submitting the overall reflective piece on your learning from participating in the discussions append your main discussion posts and refer to them in your reflection.</p> <p>The reflective piece should be about 1000 words, summarizing your learning from those tasks, evaluating the effectiveness of discussion contributions, and the extent to which you have been influenced by the responses from others. This reflective piece should be submitted along with the five individual written tasks.</p>		

**Part 1:** Indicative length – 2500 words total The indicative word length is 300 words for each individual written task (5x300) and 1000 words for reflection on learning in the discussions. Do ensure that you provide short, concise answers to each task.

We recommend that you create a Workbook as a Microsoft Word file, in which to present your answers. You should label the Workbook with your name on the first page, together with the title of this Assignment. You should clearly indicate the number of each task within the document. The answer to each Task should be presented on a separate page, within the same document. The reflective task should also be included. The outline structure would thus be

Part 1: Task 1; Task;2; Task 4: task 7; Task 9; Reflection on discussions. Refs. Appendix  
Then you would add to this Part 2 (Details below).

**Part 2.** (50% of total mark for this Unit).

This assessment offers an opportunity for you to think systemically and to reflect critically on the complex issues of economic development, sustainable development and social justice.

The focus of the assessment is the Mekong River and the controversy that has surrounded dam building, in particular the Xayaburi Dam. The Mekong is a transnational river, which starts in the Tibetan plateau and then passes through China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam; many people's livelihoods depend on the river. Eleven dams are proposed for development along the Mekong, nine of them in Laos. Such projects offer a great opportunity for Laos to enhance GDP through employment; they are an investment opportunity for energy corporations seeking alternative, 'clean' energy sources, and financiers.

### **Your task**

Imagine that you are working as a research assistant to a Member of the European Parliament, Jane Carter.

The EU has recently focused attention on engagement with Asia, with a particular focus on energy, development and security. Jane has been invited to join a task force that will consider the issues.

In preparation, she is going on a fact finding mission, first visiting Bangkok, where she will meet investment financiers, before she travels to an International Conference in Laos, where the focus will be on cooperative development in the Mekong region. She hopes as part of her tour to be able to travel down the Mekong by boat to gain a sense of the region and its peoples.

Jane announces her forthcoming trip and then returns to her home in Gillingham, Dorset. She becomes quite excited when she visits a local project, which aims to generate hydro electricity from old watermill sites and weirs along the River Stour and its tributaries. Having seen the size of the Mekong on a map, she starts to visualize the enormous potential for hydro-electricity, and its significance for countries with low GDP.

In the weeks before she sets off she is overwhelmed by the number of e-mails that she receives and the many calls from stakeholders, who wish to meet to influence her before she departs. These have ranged from lunch invites from Investment Bankers and Energy Corporations, presentations from INGOs, and letters from individual activists, warning her of human rights abuses and the damage being caused to the Mekong and indigenous people, by 'big business'. She has been persuaded by some stakeholders that alternative energy projects in this region, offer an exciting investment and development opportunity – good for energy production, good returns for financial investors in Europe, and good for lifting countries out of poverty. Others have painted a much darker picture saying that such developments ruin the environment and peoples' lives and should not go ahead.

Jane invites you to a meeting and outlines some of her concerns. She reveals her total ignorance and confusion about whether dam building will be good for development or not. She says to you: "On the one hand such developments offer the potential for economic prosperity; on the other there are allegations that this will be bad for local people and the environment. I have also heard tales of environmental injustice, corruption and human rights abuse. One of my colleagues has suggested that there are no laws that really cover this – is that true?"

I need some background info please. It would be helpful if I had a clearer understanding of these issues, so that I can get up to speed. Essentially what I would like to know:

Is hydropower a clean source of energy?

What are the issues in relation to dam building on the Mekong – why has it become so contentious? The potential for development seems fantastic but I need a more informed view - the pros and cons – who wins, who loses? Could you make this clear please and make sure you consider all perspectives. Something brief like a SWOT analysis, with ref to sources, would be handy.

As I shall be in Laos, I need to know if we should we be encouraging the development of the Xayaburi Dam or not? Although it might be hypocritical not to support it, given that in the Western world we have rarely been so concerned about dam building.

Oh and don't forget, if there are International laws that mean I do not have to worry so much, I need to know what they are.

I look forward to reading your report."

The brief is to undertake literature-based research, and on the basis of your analysis of the issues, to prepare a report for Jane that addresses her questions. It is particularly important that the paper is concise, professional, enables her to get up to speed with the breadth of concerns, and paints a clear & accessible picture.

The word limit for this Part of the Assignment is 2500 words. Please provide your report as a Microsoft Word file, containing both parts of the Assignment (Parts 1 and 2) within in the same document. (Please see the note below if you are unable to provide the document in Word format). Please provide your report as a Microsoft Word file, containing both parts of the Assignment (Parts 1 and 2) within the same document. You are required to produce a written document, which incorporates the information indicated above. The word limit for this Part of the Assignment is 2500 words. Please provide your answer for Part 2 together with all your answers from Part 1 of the assignment, in a single Microsoft Word file. (Please see the note below if you are unable to provide the document in Word format).

Assessment criteria:

Key criteria include: (i) a comprehensive understanding of the principles and practice of environmental policy, law and governance, corporate responsibility and social justice; (ii) a critical awareness of the policy, legal and administrative processes of environmental law and social justice; (iii) a clear understanding of the nature of environmental law and governance, corporate social responsibility and social justice; (iv) an ability to recognise and evaluate issues relating to social justice in the context of the transition to sustainability; (v) an ability to write professionally structured reports with an effective and critical use of relevant literature.

<b>Confirmation that this assignment assesses the relevant ILOs:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Confirmation that this assignment has been reviewed by the department assignment board:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>ALL Written assignments must be submitted before 12:30 pm BST on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020.</b>	
<b>Electronic submission time will be 12:30 BST pm on the due date following the above assignment detail, note this deadline is the time for the upload of the assignment to be completed, you are advised to begin submission <u>AT LEAST</u> 1 hour before.</b>	
<b>If you are experiencing technical problems when submitting online then you must contact the IT Service Desk immediately and before the deadline. Call +44 (0)1202 965515 off-campus, or 65515 on-campus. It's best to call, especially if it's close to the deadline. You can log a problem online too: <a href="https://bournemouth.service-now.com">https://bournemouth.service-now.com</a></b>	
<b>Please note that as per the Standard Assessment Regulations any coursework submitted after the deadline will be capped at 0%.</b>	
Capped assignments will be considered by the Board of Examiners and cannot be retrospectively uncapped by Academic Staff.	
If you are unable to submit on time due to medical or other circumstances you MUST obtain an approved extension PRIOR to the submission deadline. Extension Request Forms are available from C114 or on the university website under Student Policies, Regulations and Procedures / Assessment then Mitigating Circumstances <a href="https://www1.bournemouth.ac.uk/students/help-advice/legal-bit/mitigating-circumstances">https://www1.bournemouth.ac.uk/students/help-advice/legal-bit/mitigating-circumstances</a>	
<b>Plagiarism</b>	
Plagiarism is the act of copying the work or ideas of others without proper acknowledgement of this work.	
Plagiarism also includes self-plagiarism or duplication: the inclusion in coursework, or a dissertation, or project, of any material which is identical or substantially similar to material which has already been submitted for any other individual assessment within the University or elsewhere.	
Avoiding plagiarism is best achieved through the use of proper academic referencing and minimising direct quotations (i.e. re-write others' ideas in your own words, but still provide the reference of where these ideas came from).	
Further information can be found here: <a href="https://www1.bournemouth.ac.uk/discover/library/using-library/how-guides/how-avoid-plagiarism">https://www1.bournemouth.ac.uk/discover/library/using-library/how-guides/how-avoid-plagiarism</a>	
and <a href="https://www1.bournemouth.ac.uk/discover/library/using-library/how-guides/how-avoid-academic-offences">https://www1.bournemouth.ac.uk/discover/library/using-library/how-guides/how-avoid-academic-offences</a>	