



## STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

## YEAR

2021-2022

## COURSE TITLE

**Politics of Climate Change**

## ACADEMIC ASSISTANT

MURAVSKA Vladimira

## COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

NASSEF Youssef

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

## COURSE TYPE

Optional Contextual Course

## MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

## ECTS CREDITS

no ECTS

## SEMESTER

1

## TEACHING HOURS

10

## INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

20

## TUTORIAL(S)

## COEFFICIENT

not applicable

## LANGUAGE(S)

EN

## COURSE OBJECTIVE

The course will uncover the international politics of climate change through a multidisciplinary lens. It provides a grounding in understanding the causes and effects of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions on the climate and biosphere, appreciating the complexity of the multilateral setting that underlies international policymaking, and finally discerning the factors affecting the future evolution of this discourse.

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and understanding of the politics of climate change, and of the scientific, socioeconomic and political factors underlying climate policy. Ability for critical analysis of the different outlooks towards the climate change discourse and the challenges associated with its multidisciplinary as well as its uncertainties.

## RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Familiarization with the readings and following news articles on country positions on climate change.

## TEACHING METHOD(S)

In-class presentations and interactive discussions.

## ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The course will be assessed on a 'pass/fail' basis through:

- an online multiple-choice test (80% of the mark) at the end of the final course session - 15 minutes to answer 7 questions, and
- overall attendance (20% of the mark).

The weighted average of both assessment elements needs to be equal or greater than 50% for a student to pass the course.

Each student is entitled to re-taking the test once. The re-take test would account for 80% of the mark whilst overall attendance would account for the remaining 20%.

Since optional contextual courses carry no ECTS credits, the final result will be present on the transcript, but will have no impact on students' final average, nor on overall grade, nor on attaining the diploma.

## **COURSE CONTENTS**

### **Module 1 (2.5 hours)**

#### **Climate change basics:**

Introduction to Climate Change Science

- Political and socioeconomic dimensions
- International, regional, national and subnational dimensions

### **Module 2 (2.5 hours)**

#### **The international political process on climate change:**

- Institutions of the international climate change governance process
- Phases of evolution of the political discourse on climate change
- The variety of perspectives, and the balance of global interests

### **Module 3 (2.5 hours)**

#### **Analysis of the latest climate change negotiating session (26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC):**

- Expectations and success criteria for COP 26
- Outcomes, and consistency with expectations
- Overall implications and impact

### **Module 4 (2.5 hours)**

#### **Looking forward:**

- The challenges of transformative change
- Inflection points in the future evolution of climate change action
- Applying foresight

## COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

### **Module 1 (2.5 hours)**

- Excerpts on climate change from statements by Heads of State and Government at the General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly (September 2021; to be provided).
- Schunz, Simon. *The European Union's Strategic Turn in Climate Diplomacy: 'Multiple Bilateralism' with Major Emitters*. College of Europe, April 2021.\*
- Swiss Re Institute. *The Economics of Climate Change*. April 2021.\*
- The summaries for policymakers of the following reports:
  - IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C (2018)
  - IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land (2019)
  - IPCC Special Report on The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (2019)
  - IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2019)
  - IPCC Sixth Assessment Report Working Group I Report (2021).\*

### **Module 2 (2.5 hours)**

- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- The Kyoto Protocol
- The Paris Agreement
- Biniaz, Susan. "Comma but Differentiated Responsibilities: Punctuation and 30 Other Ways Negotiators Have Resolved Issues in the International Climate Change Regime." *Michigan Journal of Environmental & Administrative Law*, Volume 6, 2016.\*
- Ogola, Dan Bondi and Ian Fry. *Pocket Guide to Architecture and Processes of the UNFCCC*. Oxford Climate Policy, 2020.\*

### **Module 3 (2.5 hours)**

- Earth Negotiations Bulletin reports on COP 26\*
- UNFCCC: Agendas and Annotations for COP 26 and the Subsidiary Bodies
- UNFCCC: Final Synthesis of Nationally Determined Contributions, 2021\*
- United Nations Environment Programme: Emissions Gap Report
- United Nations Environment Programme: Adaptation Gap Report

### **Module 4 (2.5 hours)**

- Folke, Carl et al. "Our Future in the Anthropocene Biosphere". *Ambio*, 50:834-869, 2021.
- Kick-starting the journey towards a climate-neutral Europe by 2050 (2020)
- EU 2020 Strategic Foresight Report
- EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change (2021)