



## STUDY PROGRAMME

1. POL  
2. MATA

## ACADEMIC YEAR

2023 - 2024

## SEMESTER

Second

## COURSE TITLE

European Energy, Climate Governance and Green Deal

## COURSE PROFESSOR

Dirk BUSCHLE

## COURSE ASSISTANT

Thijs VANDENBUSSCHE

## NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)

1. Optional  
2. Optional

## LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

## ECTS CREDITS

5

## 1. COURSE OBJECTIVE

The energy sector has been at the heart of the European integration project from the early days. There is also no sector more fundamental to our societies, economies and individual lives. A motor of the industrial revolution and globalization, as well as a subject of geopolitical conflict, it is increasingly being viewed from yet another perspective: decarbonization. Our traditional ways to produce and consume energy are the reasons behind climate change, mankind's biggest challenge in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Green Deal has become a new narrative for the integration process. Bold and smart energy policy changes are also necessary for the way out of the global warming crisis. We are already in an energy transition, which will profoundly affect the way we are living in Europe and beyond. This transition will bring a multitude of challenges, from disruptive innovation to green finance, to inequalities and new geopolitical conflicts. Future decision-makers should be prepared to meet these challenges, and have the tools and the knowledge needed to make the transition a success.

What is key in this respect is understanding governance – the objectives, instruments, processes and institutions shaping the Green Deal, Europe's great energy and climate transition. Within the European Union, the energy governance has significantly evolved over the last few years, and will continue to do so. At the same time, Europe's energy governance is closely and increasingly intertwined with global developments such as the Paris Agreement or trade with the US and China. Getting into and keeping up to speed with the European and international energy transition governance is the key objective of the course.



The Course aims at making students understand the complexity of the Green Deal and the energy transition, its objectives, stakeholders and decision-making processes on a global and European level. They should be empowered to participate in the transition debate, and ultimately help shaping the new energy and climate policy, including its relations with global partners. They will understand the specifics of the energy sectors, learn how European and international energy governance has evolved, its current state and the perspectives and challenges it faces. They will also be encouraged to establish a practical affinity with the sector and expand their network, including through interaction with professionals in the field (through participating in Energy Governance Labs).

## 2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course-specific learning outcomes

- Students possess a pluri-disciplinary understanding of European integration, allowing them to understand fully the nature, dynamics and functioning of the EU system.
- Students have a general knowledge of the main components of the EU political system: institutions, actors, decision-making procedures, competences and policies.
- Students possess an in-depth knowledge of fundamental aspects of the EU political system (institutions, actors, policies etc.).
- Students develop a concrete understanding of the logics of policy-making and negotiations within the EU political system, thanks to simulation exercises and the drafting of policy papers.
- Students can recognize, contextualize, explain, and interpret political, societal and economic phenomena in European integration. They can assess events, governance problems and political crises.
- Students can transform a complex problem into a research question, mobilize theories, develop a research design, and conduct empirical work to provide solutions in an analytical and balanced way.
- Students can flexibly apply theories and analytical frameworks from different disciplinary perspectives to the main issues of EU politics and policies.
- Students are able to analyse, in a limited amount of time, complex and new issues, by finding and investigating various sources of information and delivering an analytical and critical synthesis.
- Students are capable of working as part of a complex project, individually or collectively, and they develop skills of planning, organisation, prioritisation and time management.
- Students can communicate clearly and effectively, through oral presentations or written documents, to different kinds of audiences.

For MATA students, the following MATA programme-specific learning outcomes are relevant

- The graduate can describe, explain and illustrate the current state of scientific research in the field of transatlantic affairs in a broad sense and, is, in line with his or her disciplinary focus, able to critically assess the results of this research.
- The graduate has good knowledge of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, the political and/or legal systems, the decision-making processes, the economic structures and



the main internal and external policies of the European Union and the United States.

- The graduate can approach the field of transatlantic affairs in a broad sense analytically by assessing the challenges in this domain with an open mind for diversity and for complex situations.
- The graduate has the ability to critically reflect upon problems regarding an extensive range of transatlantic affairs, to adopt well-informed points of view and to communicate them effectively orally and in writing, whether working independently or in a team.
- The graduate can independently transform complex transatlantic issues into a research question within the broader field of transatlantic affairs and, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, find, select and critically assess relevant sources, answer the question using appropriate concepts and methods and present the research results in line with the ethical rules of the chosen discipline.
- The graduate is capable of processing a large amount of information and appropriately analyse relevant sources depending on his or her disciplinary focus within a short period of time and of suggesting possible actions that contribute to problem-solving in a creative way.
- The graduate has the intellectual maturity and skills to take responsibilities and function autonomously in a professional environment at national or international level, and especially in a transatlantic context, and to work efficiently and effectively through planning, organizing, setting priorities, meeting deadlines, cooperating across cultural boundaries and networking.

### 3. COURSE CONTENTS

This course covers European energy and climate governance in a comprehensive manner and embedded in an international context. It will cover the following aspects:

1. Rockefeller reloaded: how we built a carbon world and became dependent on fossil fuels (the industrial revolution and the development of fossil fuel sectors (coal, oil, gas) will serve as an introduction to the energy and natural resource business and conflicts)
2. Natural gas – between the internal market and geopolitics (Europe's dependence on natural gas from a few dominant sources and pipelines has led to an increasingly open and interconnected internal energy market but keeps fuelling controversies about pipelines, dependence and crises. The chapter will be concluded by a hydrogen outlook).
3. Electricity – the universal fuel? (green electricity takes center stage in the energy and climate transition. It is a highly complex system exposed to the challenge of managing volatile renewables, with the potential to couple (almost) the entire economy and on one fuel, and become the same resource for the energy system as data has become for the internet.)
4. European energy policy – from coal management to coal phase-out (European integration history starts with the European Coal and Steel Community and currently is all about decarbonisation. We will explore the eventful history of European energy policy between market liberalisation and public intervention in this chapter)
5. From Paris to Brussels – the Governance of the Green Deal (the Paris Agreement and the Energy Union are two key elements of the new energy and climate governance. We will open and examine the regulatory toolbox of the Green Deal: from classic regulation to targets and plans to, emission trading and renewable energy subsidies, investment support and green



financing).

6. Leave nobody behind- making it a just transition (Increasing prices, losers of the transformation on individual and collective level, a new green iron curtain – the Green Deal seems to have a dark side, and the spectre of the *gilets jaunes* looms heavily over the transformation. We will discuss the scope of the problem and potential ways to address it.)
7. Energy and Climate Governance in a changing world (energy and climate policy become increasingly globalized. The Green Deal will also determine Europe's geopolitical relevance and strategic autonomy in the world. Trade policy, industrial policy and global security matters need to be taken into account).

## 4. TEACHING METHOD(S)

The Course follows a multi-disciplinary approach and includes historical, technical, economic, political and legal aspects. It is based on academic research as much as on practical experience of the lecturer in designing and implementing European and international energy policy. Besides lectures, the Course will include case studies, debates and simulations as well as interventions by external experts and the students themselves within the "Governance Labs".

During the Governance Labs, the students are brought in contact, in small groups of 2-3, with a professional working in the sector (public authorities, companies, associations, consultancy and think-tanks). This professional will act as a 'coach' for the writing of the essay. Each group is allocated a topic, which is discussed between the coach and the students of that group. The students write their essay on the basis of own research (word limit: between 3000 and 5000 words per group). The last classes consist partly of student presentations (5-8 minutes max.), in presence of the coach.

A tutorial will be organised by the Research Assistant of the Energy and Climate Chair in the course of the second semester, to bring students without a background on energy policies up to scratch.

## 5. COURSE MATERIAL

Course powerpoints and notes, readings.

## 6. EVALUATION

### Oral examination (50 %)

**Governance lab essay and presentation (40%)** – The essay is written within the framework of the governance labs, in which students are assigned, in small groups, to a coach working in the field of energy policy (private, public sector, NGOs etc). The essay shall give a practical, operational input (e.g. policy recommendation, briefing, strategy etc.) to the coach on a topic determined by the coach. The essay should be between 3000 and 5000 words, excluding bibliography and including all other elements (e.g. title, introduction and footnotes). This mark also includes the presentation of the essay at the feedback session of the governance labs. The essay counts for 30% of the total mark, the presentation for 10%.

**Participation (10%)** – This includes the performance of the students during the exercises, their



attendance, punctuality and active participation to class and exercises.

**Note:**

1/ Submission: Papers can only be submitted once. Only the first version received will be corrected.

2/ Referencing: Rules regarding referencing/plagiarism applying to the thesis also apply to the essays/papers.

Any written work submitted by a student is assessed on its originality as well as the depth and breadth of research undertaken. (It follows that plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion and the falsification of data are all prohibited.) No written work (even if it is not strictly academic e.g. policy brief, memo, etc.) can consist of assembling existing texts, unless the sources used are clearly indicated. If an exercise does not provide for the possibility of indicating sources, verbatim reproduction of an existing document is prohibited.

3/ Word limit:

a) All footnotes must be included in the word count, but annexes, cover page and the bibliography are excluded.

b) Tables should be in word format and will be counted as part of the word count. Graphs can be in pdf or image format.

4/ Language: all papers must be submitted in the language of the course.

5/ Penalties:

a) Regarding the non-respect of the word limit: 1 point will be subtracted from the mark that would have been awarded for every 100 words (or part thereof);

b) Regarding late submissions: for every 24 hours of delay, or part thereof, after the specified submission deadline, 2 points will be deducted from the final mark of the paper.

**Assessment at second attempt**

During the second examination session the course is assessed 100% on the basis of a written resit exam.