



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe

Brugge



Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2023-2024

COURSE TITLE

International Climate Governance

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

NASSEF Youssef

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

PASTOR VIDAL Pablo

COURSE TYPE

Specialist Course

MAJOR(S)

EUW

ECTS CREDITS

4

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

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 nature 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, exercises and interactive discussions.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

- Policy paper of 1200 to 1500 words (40%) - topics will be communicated during the first lecture
- Final exam (60%): in-class, written, closed-book, 2-hour exam; students will need to answer two out of eight questions.

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (force majeure). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.

Retake examinations, i.e. exams passed in the second examination session, will have the same format as those taken during the first exam session. The only exception concerns oral exams, which are replaced in the second exam session by written exams. When a student takes an examination during the second session, the final mark for the course is based solely on the result of the retake examination. No other element of evaluation which would have been taken into consideration in the calculation of the final mark during the first examination session will be considered in the second session.

COURSE CONTENTS

Module 1 (5 hours)

Climate Change Basics:

- Introduction to Climate Change Science
- Political and socioeconomic dimensions
- International, regional, national and subnational dimensions
- Inertia, momentum and cognitive bias in the climate change negotiations

Module 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
- Equity, justice and just transition

Module 3 (5 hours)

Analysis of the latest climate change negotiating session (28th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC):

- Expectations and success criteria for COP 28/COP 29
- Outcomes, and consistency with expectations
- Overall implications and impact
- The coming phase of international climate change politics

Module 4 (5 hours)

Looking forward:

- The notion of leadership in the climate change discourse
- 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)

Reading specified in the course outline.