



STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2023-2024

COURSE TITLE

Paris Agreement Implementation

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

WATKINSON Paul

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

STEINGASS Sebastian

COURSE TYPE

Compact Seminar

MAJOR(S)

EUW

ECTS CREDITS

no ECTS

TEACHING HOURS

10

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

not
applicable

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The course will provide insights from an active participant in the development and implementation of the Paris Agreement to enable students to get a good understanding of the multilateral climate change regime, the challenges faced in the negotiation process, and some of the key issues to be addressed in the coming years to strengthen climate action.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will be familiar with the basic political and institutional context of the Paris Agreement, how it was developed, and the current state-of-play surrounding its implementation.
- Students will be able to understand the climate negotiation mechanisms, name main stakeholders and explain some of the differences in their positions.
- Students will be familiar with key differences among national governments and international organizations in the context of climate negotiations and implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- Students will be able to discuss and debate issues related to strengthening climate action including challenges for 2022 and 2023.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None. Preparatory readings are recommended in the course materials.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Presentations and interactive discussion.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

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

- 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 compact seminars 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

- The nature of the climate challenge and the role of the multilateral climate regime – some context and background on the history of the process, how it works, the interests and concerns of different countries, groups, and other participants including non-party stakeholders.
- Getting to an agreement in Paris – the framing of multilateral negotiations leading to COP21, the preparation of the French COP21 presidency and organization of the conference, key issues that divided parties, the use of informal and other tracks, facilitating agreement, and getting to a deal.
- How the Paris Agreement is intended to work – a shared set of objectives, bottom-up targets, top-down rules and processes, collaboration and cooperation.
- Ongoing challenges for implementation – building ambition, ensuring action and delivery, deepening the involvement of non-party stakeholders, preparing and making full use of the 2023 global stocktake.
- Some of the limits of the Paris Agreement and linkages to wider processes and challenges.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

- Paris Agreement - https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Summary for Policy Makers, Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Review – https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM_final.pdf
- International Climate Change Law, Introduction – Dan Bodansky, Jutta Brunnée, Lavanya Rajamani – Oxford University Press 2017
- The Paris Agreement – Jos Delbeke, Artur Runge-Metzger, Yvon Slingenberg, Jake Werksman – Chapter 2 in Towards a Climate-Neutral Europe - <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/oa-edit/10.4324/9789276082569/towards-climate-neutral-europe-jos-delbeke-peter-vis>
- Aslak Brun – Conference diplomacy: the making of the Paris Agreement – Politics and Government, 2016, volume 4 – <https://www.cogitatiopress.com/politicsandgovernance/article/view/649/649>
- Informal meetings during the preparation of COP21 – Paul Watkinson – <http://watkinson.fr/2021/06/22/informal-meetings-during-the-preparation-of-cop21/>
- Carbon Brief – COP26: Key outcomes agreed at the UN climate talks in Glasgow – <https://www.carbonbrief.org/cop26-key-outcomes-agreed-at-the-un-climate-talks-in-glasgow>
- Climate Vulnerable Forum – Vulnerable countries demand climate emergency pact from COP26 – <https://thecvf.org/our-voice/news/press-releases/vulnerable-nations-demand-climate-emergency-pact-from-cop26>
- Improved Marrakech partnership for global climate action for enhancing ambition 2021-2025 – Note by the high-level champions –

<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Improved%20Marrakech%20Partnership%202021-2025.pdf>