Course Title

European Environmental Policy

Course Number
ENVST-UA.9460001/SASEM UG.9100001

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Lecturer Contact Information
Dr. Andrzej Ancygier
aa157@nyu.edu

Course Details
Mondays, 5:15 pm to 8:00 pm
NYUB Academic Center, Room “Pankow” (tbc)

Prerequisites
None

Units earned
4

Course Description
This course provides an introduction to various aspects of environmental policy in Europe. Special focus will be placed on the European Union (EU) as the main entity shaping environmental policies on the European continent. At the same time, the EU’s impact on non-member states will also be paid close attention to. After a brief overview of the basics of policy making in the EU, students will learn about the guiding principles of and developments in European environmental policy, the main actors and their interests in this area, as well as the way these actors influence the policy-making process at the domestic and international levels. In the second part of the course, we will analyze European climate change policy and the policies and instruments adopted to mitigate the threat of global warming. Among these, the development of renewable energies and the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) will be given the most attention. The third part of the course will be largely devoted to policy areas such as nature conservation, biodiversity, waste and recycling policies. In addition, the attempts of the EU to shape the transport policy of member states and lower emissions in this sector will be looked into. Finally, the last session will be devoted to the role of European environmental policy in shaping environmental policies of non-European countries and global climate negotiations. Understanding this aspect of European environmental policy will be especially important in light of the projected changes to the American environmental policy after the new administration takes office.

Course Objective
The goal of the course is to give students a basic understanding of European environmental policy. Students should be able to explain European environmental policy based on its underlying principles, the actors and interest groups involved, as well as historical developments. Students will also be encouraged to compare policies adopted on the
European continent with certain policies adopted in the United States or in another country the student is especially interested in, and to explain the reasons for these differences. This course should contribute to sharpening students’ analytical skills for analyzing the effectiveness of environmental policies and enable them to assess European environmental politics within a global framework.

**Assessment Components**

a. In-class participation and attendance (20%). This covers having read all of the assigned reading requirements and participating in the discussions.

b. Two reading responses (400-700 words each, 10% total, 5% each) on the reading material for a chosen session. Alternatively, the student may also write his/her reactions to the discussion which has taken place in class.

c. Two quizzes (10% total, 5% each). The 10-minute-long quizzes will consist largely of multiple choice questions and will cover the content of the reading assignments and the in-class discussions of the previous sessions.

d. One in-class presentation (15%). Students will be asked to give a 10 to 15-minute-long presentation in which they compare a specific aspect of environmental policy in Europe and in the USA, or another country of importance to the student. The presentation should be held during the session covering the respective topic. Students have until 28 February 2017 to inform the instructor about the topic of the presentation.

e. Mid-term essay (25%). Students will have to write a take-home essay (around 2000 words, +/- 10% including references) in which they compare a specific aspect of environmental policy in Europe and their home country. The exact topic can be the same as the one chosen for the in-class presentation but should also include the suggestions made during the presentation. Additional readings are required for the essay and can be determined in consultation with the instructor. The mid-term essays are due on April 8, 2017.

f. Closed-book, in-class final exam (20%). The final exam will be held during the session on 13 May 2016 and last around 60 minutes. Students will have to choose and answer two out of three open questions which will necessitate a longer response. In addition, the exam will include a number of open questions that should be answered with one or two sentences, as well as some multiple choice questions.

Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

**Assessment Expectations**

**Grade A:** The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well-structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / answers to exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

**Grade B:** The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

**Grade C:** The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

**Grade D:** The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.
Grade F: The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

Grade Conversion
Your lecturer may use one of the following scales of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>65-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Alternatively:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance Policy
Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success, especially in courses that meet only once per week. Your attendance in both content and language courses is required and will be checked at each class meeting. As soon as it becomes clear that you cannot attend a class, you must inform your professor by e-mail immediately (i.e. before the start of your class). Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, religious observance or emergencies. Your professor or NYU Berlin's administration may ask you to present a doctor's note or an exceptional permission from NYU Berlin's Director or Wellness Counselor as proof. Emergencies or other exceptional circumstances must be presented to the Director. Doctor's notes need to be submitted to the Academics Office, who will inform your professors. Doctor's notes need to be from a local doctor and carry a signature and a stamp. If you want the reasons for your absence to be treated confidentially, please approach NYU Berlin's Director or Wellness Counselor.

Unexcused absences affect students' grades: In content courses each unexcused absence (equaling one week's worth of classes) leads to a deduction of 2% of the overall grade and may negatively affect your class participation grade. In German Language classes two or three (consecutive or non-consecutive) unexcused absences (equaling one week's worth of classes) lead to a 2% deduction of the overall grade. Three unexcused absences in one content course and five unexcused absences in your German language course may lead to a Fail in that course. Furthermore, your professor is entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival or late arrival back from in-class breaks. Being more than 15 minutes late counts as an unexcused absence. Please note that for classes involving a field trip, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive in time at the announced meeting point.

Exams, tests and quizzes, deadlines, and oral presentations that are missed due to illness always require a doctor's note as documentation. It is the student's responsibility to produce this doctor's note and submit it to the Academics Office; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F and no make-up assessment is scheduled. In content classes, an F in one assignment may lead to failure of the entire class.
**Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays**
Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent due to religious observance should notify their lecturer AND NYU Berlin's Academics Office in writing via e-mail one week in advance. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Academics Office will schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also [http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html](http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html)

**Late Submission of Work**
(1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

(2) Late work should be submitted in person to the lecturer or to the Academics Office, who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff may also personally accept the work, and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.

(3) Work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays), unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor's note or by approval of NYU Berlin's administration), in which case the 2 points per day deductions start counting from the day the extended deadline has passed.

(4) Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 days (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays) following the submission date receives an F.

(5) End of semester essays must be submitted on time.

(6) Students who are late for a written exam have no automatic right to take extra time or to write the exam on another day.

(7) Please remember that university computers do not keep your essays - you must save them elsewhere. Having lost parts of your essay on the university computer is no excuse for a late submission.

**Provisions for Students with Disabilities**
Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see their website [http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html](http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html) for further information.

**Plagiarism Policy**
The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism. Proper referencing of your sources avoids plagiarism (see as one possible help the NYU library guide to referencing styles: [http://nyu.libguides.com/citations](http://nyu.libguides.com/citations)).

NYU Berlin takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by
your home school. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For a summary of NYU Global's academic policies please see: www.nyu.edu/global/academic-policies

Required Text(s)
The texts listed below will be available online on NYU Classes.

NYU Berlin Library Catalogue: http://guides.nyu.edu/global/berlin or follow the link on NYU Berlin's website (Academics/Facilities & Services).

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)

Internet Research Guidelines
To be discussed in class

**Module 1: Introduction to European Environmental Policy**

**Session 1 – 30 Jan 2017**

History of European environmental policy
During this class we will take a look at the genesis of the European environmental policy and its guiding principles. We will investigate the reasons for the transfer of powers from the national to the European level and discuss the limits of the supranational organizations in shaping different environmental policies.

Reading:

Videos:
European Commission (2007) “50 Years of Protecting Europe’s Environment” available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTEMFKKuKxE Duration: 11’11, and

**Session 2 – 6 Feb 2017**

**Introduction to the EU functioning**
During this class, we will look into the main actors shaping environmental policy on the European continent. A short overview of the genesis and development of the EU as the major actor shaping European environmental policy will be provided. We will also look into the EU's main institutions and discuss the impact of EU policies on non-member states.

**Reading:**


**Videos**
Viking Cruises (2014) "Europe: From WWII to today’s European Union" available at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRwZyDTdCAc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRwZyDTdCAc) Duration: 23’57

European Union (2013) “The EU institutions explained by their presidents” available at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0diZ48_q7U&t=319s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0diZ48_q7U&t=319s) Duration: 9’12 [switch on the subtitles]

**Module 2: European Climate and Energy Policy**

**Session 3 – 13 Feb 2017**

**Introduction to the issue of climate change**
Climate change has been defined as the major environmental issue that our civilization will have to deal with in this century. Reduction of GHGs emissions will affect not only the global economy, but also our daily lives. But while the costs of inaction will be enormous, climate change mitigation is bringing significant opportunities. During this session we will look at the main consequences of climate change and the state of the global climate change negotiations. Special attention will be given to the Paris Agreement adopted in December 2015.

**Reading:**


UNFCCC (2015), points 12-17, 53-55, 59 of the “Paris Decision” and articles 2, 3 and 4 of the “Paris Agreement”, [7].

**Movies**
David Puttnam (2014) “The reality of climate change | David Puttnam | TEDxDublin” Available at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBjtO-0tbKU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBjtO-0tbKU) Duration: 16’34
European climate change policy
For a long time, the European Union has been considered the leader in the fight against climate change. But the EU Eastern enlargements and economic crisis have significantly changed the situation. What factors are driving European climate change policy? What role does climate policy play in shaping European environmental policies? What is the chance that the European Union will regain its leadership in the fight against climate change?

Reading:


Videos:
Roger Cox “How EU action could save Earth from climate disaster” Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ofzi2Lfje7U Duration: 17’51

Energy policy and global warming.
During this session, we will analyze the links between energy policy and global warming. How do different sources of energy influence global warming? How is global warming influencing energy policy?

Reading:


Movies
"Documentary: The renewable energy breakthrough! (finally)" Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BV8VJMMtjlk Duration: 46’11

German energy transition
In 2011, Germany – for the second time – decided to switch off its nuclear power plants by 2022 and replace them, as well as coal-fired power plants, with renewable sources of energy.
How realistic is this plan? What challenges and opportunities could result from this decision? Will it end up in a blackout of the largest European economy? Or will Germany set an example for the rest of Europe to follow?

Reading:


Movies
Dena (2014) “Renewables – Made in Germany” Available at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxJz6NSz8eg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxJz6NSz8eg) Duration: 34’59.

13 March 2017 – Spring Break – No Class

**Session 7 – 20 Mar 2017**

European renewable energy policy
Can renewable energy help us mitigate global warming? What role does the development of renewable energies play in European environmental policy? What factors determine the development of this policy?

Reading:

Craig Morris and Martin Pehnt, *German Energy Transition. Arguments for a Renewable Energy Future*, (Heinrich Böll Stiftung, 2016), pp. 64-77, [16].


Movies:
The Open University (2011) “Sustainable Energy in Europe – Energy Policy and Climate Change – Parts 1-7” Available at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1UYad0PBMQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1UYad0PBMQ) (please, search for further parts in the right pane). 1’09’45

**Session 8 – 27 Mar 2017**

Emission Trading Scheme
This session will explain the principle of burden sharing, outline the EU-wide climate change program, examine national climate programs and outline the role of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). We will also discuss the impact of the EU ETS on the non-EU countries.

Reading:

ICAP (2016) “Emissions Trading Worldwide” – choose and read about one of the other cap-and-trade programs presented, between 2-5 pages, [20].

Movies
EurActiv (2007) “The Emissions Trading System – Putting a Price on Carbon” Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7veRksc_Yk Duration: 10’22, and

IIAE (2013) “Rescuing the EU Carbon Market – EU-ETS Video InfoGraphic” Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVBfJsR1PU Duration: 5’23.

**Module 3: Other Environmental Policies**

**Session 9 – 3 Apr 2017**

Nature conservation and biodiversity
The factors affecting the delicate balance of biodiversity are global warming, the migration of invasive alien species, desertification and genetically modified organisms (GMO). How can the loss of biodiversity be stopped? What impact does it have on our lives? During this session the main policies aiming at slowing down diversity loss will be investigated.

Reading:


Movie:
“Seeds of Death: Unveiling The Lies of GMO’s - Full Movie” Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6OxbpLwEjQ Duration: 1’19’34.
Session 10 – 7 Apr 2017 [FRIDAY – Make-Up Day!]

Waste management
We will discuss the role of waste management and recycling in European environmental policy and its impact on the European economy. The main focus will be on the most preferred ways of dealing with waste.

Reading:

Movies
“Waste Management and Recycling” Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjNv_iTsXn8 Duration: 9’29, and

“Exporting Harm: The High-Tech Trashing of Asia” Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDSWGV3jGek Duration: 23’03.

Session 11 – 10 Apr 2017

Air pollution, soil and noise pollution
For a long time, air pollution was the major environmental issue facing European countries. Has the situation improved over the last two decades? Which measures were successful, which have failed? Soil and noise pollution are often ignored but are still very important environmental issues. How effective has European policy been in these areas so far? What measures are planned for the future? How are different countries dealing with this subject?

Reading:

Movies
“Under the Dome” available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rh6NGNfBy8o Duration: 1’43’53.

17 Apr 2017 – NO CLASS – Public Holiday

Session 12 – 21 Apr 2017 [FRIDAY – Make-Up Day!]

Sustainable transport
The VW scandal showed, that German and European transport policies are not as sustainable as assumed. Why is Europe lagging behind some other countries in this regard, especially as far as the development of e-mobility is concerned? What is the role of the European
Commission in making the European transport sector more sustainable? What are the alternatives to the challenges facing the transport sector in the EU and globally?

Reading:


Movies:
“Revenge of the Electric Car” Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ru89x1jmpq4. Duration: 1’29’52

Session 13 – 24 April 2017

Green cities
With more than half of the global population and 75% of the European population living in cities, the environmental issues resulting from an increasing amount of people sharing a limited amount of space are becoming clearer. Air pollution, noise pollution and enormous amounts of waste are becoming the challenges that many European and American cities have to deal with. During this class, the best and worst examples of how to deal with these issues will be discussed.

Reading:
UCCRN (2011) “Climate Change and Cities,” 7 pages, [33].


LSECities (2013) “Going Green. How cities are leading the next economy,” 56 pages, [35].


Movies
“Bogotá: Building A Sustainable City” Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljhMQM8eaVY&t=229s Duration: 25’44, and

“Smart Cities: How do We Build the Cities of Tomorrow: Hugh Green at TEDxEmory” Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGOVEvm7dm0&t=3s Duration: 12’43.

1 May 2017 – NO CLASS – Public Holiday
Session 14 – 8 May 2017

EU versus the rest of the world. US and EU environmental politics in comparison
What impact does the EU have on global climate negotiations? What is the impact of the measures introduced in Europe on non-member countries? How does EU environmental policy compare to that of the United States?

Reading:

Tom Delreux and Sander Happaerts, Environmental Policy and Politics in the European Union, (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), pp. 231-253, [38].

Movies
“Earth – 100 years later” Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdcqbPc3XYY. Duration 24’10

Session 15 - 15 May 2017

Wrap-up session. In-Class exam: Around 60 minutes and discussion of results afterwards.

Classroom Etiquette
No laptops during the class allowed.

Suggested Co-Curricular Activities
To be discussed during the class

Your Lecturer
Dr. Andrzej Ancygier has been teaching various courses dealing with environmental protection, European integration and global challenges from political and sociological perspectives. His main focus is the impact of the energy sector on climate change and analysis of the factors leading to the global transformation towards renewable sources of energy.

Dr. Ancygier has been teaching at NYU Berlin since 2011. In addition, he is teaching a course dealing with the European environmental policy and politics at the Freie Universität in Berlin. Since 2015 Ancygier has been working as energy expert at Climate Analytics, a think analyzing the impact of climate change on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).