

Environmental Politics and Policy in Europe

Dr. Kim Coetzee

Email Address:	info@fubest.fu-berlin.de
Time Slot:	Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.
Language of Instruction:	English
Contact Hours:	45
ECTS Credits:	6

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the EU and its policy on environmental protection and natural resources. After a brief recap of the basics of policy-making in the EU, students will learn about the guiding principles and developments within the EU's environmental policy. Subsequently, the course will cover the major environmental challenges we are facing currently.

In the first part of the course (sessions 1-6), we will discuss the functioning of the European Union to be able to better understand the factors influencing European environmental policy and politics. We will also look at the European reaction to climate change and discuss the effectiveness of the main solutions to this global problem: the development of renewable sources of energy and the different ways of pricing carbon. We will also devote a special session to the EU's role in climate negotiations.

The second part of the course (sessions 7-12) will consider different forms of pollution, such as air, noise, water and soil pollution, as well as humanity's impact on biodiversity. In this part of the course, we will also discuss the main prerequisites for making the European transport sector more sustainable and European cities greener and smarter. In the last session we will discuss the challenges and the opportunities for the future of environmental policy.

Learning Objectives

The course objectives are three-fold. First, it aims to familiarise students with the structure and functioning of the EU, enabling them to critically understand the rationale behind collective protection of the environment and the institutional framework in which EU environmental policy has developed.

Second, the course aims at presenting the key areas of EU's environmental policy with a focus on the policy process and the role different actors play within the given institutional setting. This includes an analysis of the EU's role as an international actor.

Third, several sessions will also present core notions of environmental policy like the precautionary principle or the utilization of the best available technologies, as well as the underlying environmental problems of each policy field within the context of sustainable development. This aspect will allow students to understand the need for environmental protection but also the tension with other important societal goals. The course is open for interdisciplinary discussion with a social science focus.

Student Profile

Should be in their fourth semester of college/university education or beyond.

Assignments and Grading

Participation in class discussion: 300 Points

Independent Project: 100 Points

Midterm Exam: 250 Points

Draft Term Paper: 100 Points

Final Term Paper: 250 Points

Completion of the Midterm Exam as well as the Term Paper is needed for a grade.

FUB Grade	Points of 1,000
1.0	980-1,000
1.3	950-979
1.7	900-949
2.0	850-899
2.3	800-849
2.7	750-799
3.0	700-749
3.3	650-699
3.7	600-649
4.0	500-599
5.0	< 500

Attendance

Attendance in class is mandatory. We also expect you to be punctual out of respect to both your instructor and your fellow students. If you cannot attend class because you are ill, please report sick to the FU-BEST office (info@fubest.fu-berlin.de) and to your instructor by e-mail before class.

Absences are **excused** in case of **illness**; however, for the fifth sick day and every other sick day after that (consecutive or cumulative, counted not per individual course but for the program overall), you will need to turn in a doctor's notice ("Attest" in German) to the FU-BEST office in order for them to count as excused, too.

If you miss an exam due to an excused absence, your instructor and the FU-BEST team will arrange a make-up exam for you; you may also be entitled to a term paper deadline extension. If you, however, do not fulfill all course requirements needed for a grade by the (later) date determined by the program, passing the course is no longer possible.

Please also note that if you miss more than half of a course's sessions (even if due to excused absence), passing the course is no longer possible.

Personal travel and visits by relatives or friends are **not** accepted as reasons for absence (i.e., absences for these reasons always count as unexcused).

Regarding **unexcused** absences, please note the following:

- Any unexcused absence has consequences for at least the participation portion of the grade.
- Two unexcused absences lead to a formal warning and a lowering of the course grade by a fraction.
- Three unexcused absences will result in an "F" (5.0) on the transcript.

An absence for more than half of a particular day's session will be considered an absence for that day.

Literature

Course readings and videos available on the digital learning platform Blackboard and through the links below.

Course Schedule

Calendar	Topics, Readings, etc.
Session 1	<p>Topic: The European Union – background and institutions</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civitas (2015) “European Union Treaties”, 2 pages. • Delreux, T. & Happaerts, S. (2017) Environmental Policy and Politics in the European Union, pp. 58-97. (skim read this) • The Road to the Treaty on European Union. Available here <p>Films:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The European Union” (2020). Available here. Duration 13’01. • “Eureka, Building the European Union”. Available here • “Is the European Union Worth It or Should We End It?” (2017). Available here. Duration 7’41.
Session 2	<p>Topic: The European Union – the policy-making process</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heidbreder, E.G, & Brandsma, G.J (2018) „The EU Policy Process“ in: Ongaro E., Van Thiel S. (eds.) The Palgrave Handbook of Public Administration and Management in Europe. The Palgrave Macmillan, London, pp. 805-821. • Wurzel, R. K. W., et al. (2019) „The European Council, the Council and the Member States: changing environmental leadership dynamics in the European Union“. In Environmental Politics, 28:2, pp. 248-270. <p>Films:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • „How does the EU pass new laws“ (2017). Available here. Duration 5’25. • “The EU’s budget Standoff Explained: Why Poland and Hungary Refuse EU Budget Plans – TLDR News” (2020). Available here. Duration 9’51.
Session 3	<p>Topic: The European Green Deal – EU’s “man on the moon” moment?</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFCCC (2015), points 12-17, 53-55, 59 of the “Paris Decision” and articles 2, 3 and 4 of the “Paris Agreement”. • European Commission (2019). The European Green Deal. 24 pages. • European Commission (2019). The European Green Deal. Annex. 4 pages. • McKibben, B. (2016) “We Need to Literally Declare War on Climate Change,” in New Republic, 15 August 2016, 14 pages. <p>Films:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The European Union’s Green Deal, Explained” (2021). Available here. Duration 8’05. • “The EU Climate Law explained” (2020). Available here. Duration 5’44. <p>Submission: Independent Project</p>
Session 4	<p>Topic: European renewable energy policy</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REN21 (2021). Renewables 2021: Global Status Report. Executive Summary. 12 pages. • Jacobs, D., et al (2020). The Case for a Wider Energy Policy Mix in Line with the Objectives of the Paris Agreement. 8 pages.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Commission (2020). Powering a climate-neutral economy: An EU Strategy for Energy System Integration. 22 pages. Agora Energiewende & Ember (2021) “The European Power Sector in 2020”, 18 pages. <p>Films:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “What will the future of energy in Europe look like?” (2020). Available here. Duration 8’00. “The Climate Crisis: Towards Zero Carbon” (2020). Available here. Duration 13’05.
Session 5	<p>Topic: EU Emissions Trading Scheme</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICAP (2021). EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). 9 pages. ICAP (2021). Emissions Trading Worldwide. 10 pages Franziska Funke & Linus Mattauch (2018) “Why is carbon pricing in some countries more successful than in others?” in Our World in Data, 7 pages. IASS (2020). The Global Impacts of an EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. 16 pages. <p>Films:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “What is carbon trading?” (2021). Available here. Duration 7’15. “Carbon Countdown: Prices and Politics in the EU-ETS”. Available here. Duration 5’05.
Session 6	MIDTERM EXAM
Session 7	<p>Topic: Energy crisis in EU</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruegel (2022). A grand bargain to steer through the European Union’s energy crisis. 17 pages. Allianz (2022). ‘Whatever it takes’ reloaded? Europe’s fiscal response to the energy crisis. 11 pages. <p>Films</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “How bad could Europe’s energy crisis get this winter?” (2022). Available here. Duration 25’01. <p>Submission: Draft of the Term Paper if you want feedback.</p>
Session 8	<p>Topic: Sustainable transport</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Commission (2020). Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy – putting European transport on track for the future. 25 pages. European Environment Agency (2020). Transport and environment report 2020. Train or plane? 17 pages. Greenpeace (2020). The Time for Radical Movement. Executive Summary. 18 pages. <p>Films:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Ellen Emeric: Is Public Transportation the Answer?” (2017). Available here. Duration 9:27. “Zach Krapfl: Change in your Transportation Future” (2016). Available here. Duration 16:25.

<p>Session 9</p>	<p>Topic: Decarbonization of the European buildings</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Commission (2020). A Renovation Wave for Europe – greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives. 27 pages. • BPIE (2021). Nearly zero: A review of EU member state implementation of new build requirements. 15 pages. • Deutsche Umwelthilfe (2021). Ready for the Wave? Overlooked aspects of the Renovation Wave Initiative. 21 pages. <p>Films:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Exploring Passive House Design – 90% Energy Savings” (2021). Available here. Duration 12’09. • Heat Pumps: the Future of Home Heating (2021). Available here. Duration 35’15.
<p>Session 10</p>	<p>Topic: Green and smart cities</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarv, L. & Soe, R-M. (2021). Transition towards Smart City: The Case of Tallinn. In Sustainability, 13, 4143. 18 pages. • JRC (2020). The Future of Cities. Opportunities, Challenges, and the Way Forward. 80 pages. <p>Films:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Peter Calthorpe: 7 principles for building better cities” (2017). Available here. Duration 14’20. • “How the EU is trying to make one hundred cities carbon neutral by 2030” (2020). Available here. Duration 8’00.
<p>Session 11</p>	<p>Topic: Waste management</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Commission (2020) “A new Circular Economy Action Plan For a cleaner and more competitive Europe”, 20 pages. • European Environment Agency (2019) “Preventing plastic waste in Europe”, 25 pages. • Antonopoulos, I., Faraca, G., Tonini, D. (2021). Recycling of post-consumer plastic packaging waste in the EU: Recovery rates, material flows, and barriers. In Waste Management, 126, pp 694-705. <p>Films:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The recycling myth: What actually happens to our plastic”. Available here. Duration 15’23. • “10 Ways to Reduce Waste. Zero Waste for Beginners”. Available here. Duration 7’16.
<p>Session 12</p>	<p>Topic: Air and noise pollution</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Environment Agency (2020). Air quality in Europe – 2020 report. 12 pages. • European Commission (2021). Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All. EU Action Plan: “Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil. 22 Pages. • European Environment Agency (2020). Environmental noise in Europe – 2020. 47 pages. • Musgrave, I. (2020). Gas cooking is associated with worsening asthma in kids. But proper ventilation helps. <p>Films:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Monitoring air quality” (2020). Available here. Duration 4’02.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “This is your brain on air pollution. Maria Neira.” (2020). Available here. Duration 12’52. • “Noise Pollution Is Much Worse For You Than You Think” (2018). Available here. Duration 5’52. <p>Submission: Final version of Term Papers due by midnight CET</p>
<p>Session 13</p>	<p>Mini-presentation about Term Paper</p>
