

Global Climate Politics

Lecturer: Dr. Arnault Barichella
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Department: LSO
Semester: 1&2

Course level: L3 Undergraduate
Domain: Social Sciences / economics
Teaching language: English
Number of in-class hours: 36
Number of course sessions: 12
ECTS: 6

Course description and objectives

The Paris Agreement, reached on 12 December 2015, represents the first comprehensive global climate agreement. The treaty contains many positive provisions that aim to build a new architecture for the global climate regime under the aegis of the UNFCCC. This course will offer students an in-depth analysis of the main provisions contained in the Paris Agreement and the new climate regime it ushers in.

The EU has always been a leader on environmental issues, both from a domestic and a foreign policy perspective, enacting some of the most far-reaching climate and renewable energy policies in the world. EU climate and energy legislation is also supplemented by extensive policies at the national level. The course will examine both internal EU policies and external relations in the field of climate change. This will include a particular focus on the new European Green Deal, other internal EU climate and energy policies, as well as how the EU negotiates within the UNFCCC. By contrast, climate politics in United States have been more volatile. While President Obama sought to launch a number of federal climate initiatives, the Republican Party has consistently demonstrated skepticism towards climate science, with President Trump taking the decision to withdraw the US from the Paris Agreement. While Joe Biden's election as President led to America re-joining the Paris Accord, his administration still faced a number of obstacles and domestic opposition for an ambitious federal climate agenda. Likewise, Trump's return to the White House has cast a large shadow on federal efforts to tackle climate change in the US over the next few years.

As a result, non-state and sub-national actors around the world including cities, states, the private sector and civil society, have a key role to play in compensating for inadequacies at the national level. For instance, parts of the US such as California and New York, as well as cities such as Paris, have become world leaders in enacting climate policies at the local level. Hence, this course will examine the emerging framework of multi-level and polycentric governance, including the role of non-state and sub-national actors as building blocks within the climate regime. Energy and climate policies in the EU will be compared with those in the US and in other countries such as China in order to highlight differences in approach, as well as contrasting perspectives on the future of the global climate regime.

Prerequisites

There are no specific prerequisites. However, prior knowledge of international relations, political science, or environmental economics is helpful.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the evolution of global environmental and climate governance from the 1970s to today.
- Identify key institutions, actors, and negotiation processes within the UNFCCC framework.
- Analyze the policy approaches of the EU, the US, and China toward climate governance.
- Assess the role of non-state and sub-state actors in shaping international climate outcomes.
- Critically evaluate the successes and limitations of international environmental diplomacy.
- Participate in a simulated COP negotiation, applying concepts from the course in practice.

Assignments and grading

Several required readings for most sessions, which can be downloaded from Moodle. Optional readings will also be suggested. Students will need to sit an in-class final examination at the end of the semester (*examen sur table*), where they will choose to write an essay on a topic chosen from a proposed list of 11 subjects, based on the material covered in class during the semester. The exam will last for three hours (no notes allowed – only pen, pencil and writing paper), and will count for 50% of their final grade.

The other 50% of the grade will be based on oral participation throughout the semester. This includes preparation of an oral presentation in a group on a subject of chosen by students (around 20 minutes, 35% of the final grade), in relation to the material covered in class; oral presentations will take place at the beginning of every class. The other 15% of the oral participation grade takes into account not only participation in classes throughout the semester, but also attendance and punctuality. In this regard, oral participation in the final class, which is organized around a simulation of the COP negotiations, is especially important for the oral grade.

The numerical grade distribution will dictate the final grade. The passing grade for a course is 10/20.

Attendance

Attendance is **mandatory**. Students are expected to attend all classes, arrive on time, and stay for the entire session. Repeated absences or lateness may affect the final grade.

Class Participation

Active participation is essential — it is what makes classes both lively and instructive. Students are expected to come prepared and contribute thoughtfully to discussions. Participation will be assessed based on the **quality** of contributions, not their quantity.

Exam Policy

Students are not allowed to bring any materials into exams, except those explicitly authorized by the instructor. Unexcused absences from exams or failure to submit assigned cases will result in a **grade of zero** when calculating final averages. All exams must be submitted at the end of the examination period.

Communication and Grading

All questions or concerns regarding grading or course policies must follow the official procedures. **No direct negotiation with instructors about grades or assessments is permitted.**

Course structure

Session	Topic
1	Introduction to the course and history of the international environmental regime, with the main institutions, actors and concepts up to the Paris Agreement
2	The architecture of the new global climate change regime post-Paris under the aegis of the UNFCCC

Required reading	Savaresi A. (2016), The Paris Agreement: a new beginning?, <i>Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law</i> , 34:1, 16–26.
3	Internal EU environmental, climate and energy policies, including interaction with national member state policies
Required reading	Wurzel R. K. W. et al. (2019), The European Council, the Council and the Member States: changing environmental leadership dynamics in the European Union, <i>Environmental Politics</i> , 28:2, 248–270.
4	EU diplomacy and leadership in the global climate regime, with a network of international partnerships
Required reading	Parker C. F. et al. (2017), <i>Assessing the European Union's global climate change leadership: from Copenhagen to the Paris Agreement</i> , <i>Journal of European Integration</i> , 39:2, 239–252.
5	History of environmental policies in the US, with the main institutions, actors and processes involved
Required reading	Lisowski M. (2002), Playing the Two-Level Game: US President Bush's Decision to Repudiate the Kyoto Protocol, <i>Environmental Politics</i> , 11:4, 101–119. Bailey C. J. (2019), Assessing President Obama's climate change record, <i>Environmental Politics</i> , 28:5, 847–865. Jotzo F. et al. (2018), US and international climate policy under President Trump, <i>Climate Policy</i> , 18:7, 813–817.
6	Contrasting perspectives between Obama and Trump's 1 st term on climate and energy issues, including domestic and foreign policy
Required reading	Bailey C. J. (2019), Assessing President Obama's climate change record, <i>Environmental Politics</i> , 28:5, 847–865. Jotzo F. et al. (2018), US and international climate policy under President Trump, <i>Climate Policy</i> , 18:7, 813–817.
7	Assessing climate politics under the Biden administration, and consequences of Trump's return to the White House
Required reading	Barichella A. (2021), US Climate Politics under Biden: Is the Clean Energy Revolution Under Way?, <i>Édito Énergie</i> , Ifri.
8	Multi-level governance and the role of sub-national and non-state actors in US climate politics, including under Trump
Required reading	Barichella A. (2018), Multi-actor, multi-level governance for the transatlantic climate and energy dialogue, <i>Sciences Po Law Review</i> , n°14, 71–85.
9	Polycentric governance and the role of non-Party Stakeholders actors as building blocks in the global climate regime
Required reading	Bäckstrand K. et al. (2017), Non-state actors in global climate governance: from Copenhagen to Paris and beyond, <i>Environmental Politics</i> , 26:4, 561–579. Duggan J. (2019), The Role of Sub-State and Non-State Actors in International Climate Processes, Chatham House.
10	Rising superpower: climate and energy issues in China, including domestic and foreign policy
Required reading	Kostka G. & Zhang C. (2018), Tightening the Grip: Environmental Governance under Xi Jinping, <i>Environmental Politics</i> , 27:5, 769–781.
11	In-class simulation of the latest COP30, with students choosing their roles in advance
12	Final Exam

Bibliography

Suggested Readings by Week

Week 1

- Gupta, J. (2014), *The History of Global Climate Governance*, Cambridge University Press.

- Luterbacher, U. et al. (2018), *Global Climate Policy: Actors, Concepts, and Enduring Challenges*, MIT Press.

Week 2

- Klein, D. et al. (2017), *The Paris Agreement on Climate Change: Analysis and Commentary*, Oxford University Press.
- Popovski, V. (2018), *The Implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (Law, Ethics and Governance)*, Routledge.
- Salawitch, R. J., Canty, T. P. & Hope, A. P. (2017), *Paris Climate Agreement: Beacon of Hope*, Springer.

Week 3

- Delbeke, J. & Vis, P. (2015), *EU Climate Policy Explained*, Routledge.
- Delreux, T. & Happaerts, S. (2016), *Environmental Policy and Politics in the European Union (The European Union Series)*, Palgrave.

Week 4

- Jänicke, M. & Wurzel, R. K. W. (2019), *Leadership and Lesson-Drawing in the European Union's Multilevel Climate Governance System*, *Environmental Politics*, 28(1), 22–42.
- Langlet, D. & Mahmoudi, S. (2016), *EU Environmental Law and Policy*, Oxford University Press.
- Skjærseth, J. B. et al. (2016), *Linking EU Climate and Energy Policies: Decision-Making, Implementation and Reform (New Horizons in Environmental Politics Series)*, Edward Elgar Publishing.

Week 5

- Afionis, S. (2018), *The European Union in International Climate Change Negotiations (Routledge Studies in Environmental Policy)*, Routledge.
- Minas, S. & Ntousas, V. (2019), *EU Climate Diplomacy: Politics, Law and Negotiations (Routledge Advances in Climate Change Research)*, Routledge.

Week 6

- Anderson, S. et al. (2017), *The America First Energy Policy of the Trump Administration*, *Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law*, 35(3), 221–270.
- Burch, J. R. (2016), *Climate Change and American Policy: Key Documents, 1979–2015*, McFarland & Co.
- Hays, S. P. (2008), *Beauty, Health and Permanence: Environmental Politics in the United States, 1955–1985 (Studies in Environment and History)*, Cambridge University Press.
- Kraft, M. E. (2000), *U.S. Environmental Policy and Politics: From the 1960s to the 1990s*, *Journal of Political History*, 12(1).
- Parker, C. F. & Karlsson, C. (2018), *The UN Climate Change Negotiations and the Role of the United States: Assessing American Leadership from Copenhagen to Paris*, *Environmental Politics*, 27(3).
- Urpelainen, J. & de Graaf, T. V. (2018), *United States Non-Cooperation and the Paris Agreement*, *Climate Policy*, 18(7), 839–851.

Week 7

- Anderson, S. et al. (2017), *The America First Energy Policy of the Trump Administration*, *Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law*, 35(3), 221–270.
- Parker, C. F. & Karlsson, C. (2018), *The UN Climate Change Negotiations and the Role of the United States: Assessing American Leadership from Copenhagen to Paris*, *Environmental Politics*, 27(3).
- Urpelainen, J. & de Graaf, T. V. (2018), *United States Non-Cooperation and the Paris Agreement*, *Climate Policy*, 18(7), 839–851.

Week 9

- Bomberg, E. (2017), *Environmental Politics in the Trump Era: An Early Assessment*, *Environmental Politics*, 26(5), 956–963.
- Hughes, S. et al. (2017), *Climate Change in Cities: Innovations in Multi-Level Governance (The Urban Book Series)*, Springer.

Week 10

- Bulkeley, H. et al. (2018), *Transnational Climate Change Governance*, Cambridge University Press.
- Hickmann, T. (2016), *Rethinking Authority in Global Climate Governance: How Transnational Climate Initiatives Relate to the International Regime*, Routledge.
- Wurzel, R. K. W. et al. (2019), *Pioneers, Leaders and Followers in Multilevel and Polycentric Climate Governance*, *Environmental Politics*, 28(1), 1–21.

Week 11

- Gallagher, K. S. & Xuan, X. (2019), *Titans of the Climate: Explaining Policy Process in the United States and China*, MIT Press.
- Hu, A. (2020), *China: Tackle the Challenge of Global Climate Change (China Perspectives)*, Routledge.
- Li, Y. (2020), *China Goes Green: Coercive Environmentalism for a Troubled Planet*, Polity.

Lecturer's biography

Arnault Barichella is a post-doctoral researcher in the social sciences at the University Paris-Saclay. He defended his PhD in 2022 at the Centre for European Studies in Sciences Po Paris under the supervision of Dr. Colin Hay. His research focuses on multi-level governance and a comparative analysis of climate and energy policies in Europe and the United States. This includes the role of cities and sub-national actors in the climate regime, and their interactions with national and global authorities. His interest in environmental issues is linked to his professional experience at UNESCO and UNEP in preparation for the COP21, as well as his work as a parliamentary assistant at the French Senate. Arnault received his undergraduate degree from Oxford University (BA History 2008-11) and his masters in European Affairs from Sciences Po Paris (2012-14). He was also a Visiting Fellow at Harvard University for the 2018-19 academic year, affiliated with the Department of Government.

In parallel to his doctoral research, Arnault has published a number of articles and papers on topics relating to his doctoral thesis, including at the Robert Schuman Foundation, the Jacques Delors Institute, as well as the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI). Since the year 2020, Arnault has been teaching classes at Sciences Po Paris on 'Global Climate Politics', which he also began teaching at the Université Paris-Dauphine in the Fall 2022. The seminar features a live simulation of the COP negotiations, with students playing the role of international, State and civil society actors.

Moodle

This course is on Moodle: **Yes**.

Lectures provided by the professor with detailed PowerPoint Presentations, which will be uploaded on Moodle at the end of each session. All required readings can also be downloaded from Moodle. Likewise, instructions for the COP30 simulation, as well as for the final handwritten examination, can also be found on Moodle.

Academic integrity

Be aware of the rules in Université Paris Dauphine about plagiarism and cheating during exams. All work turned in for this course must be your own work, or that of your own group. Working as part of a group implies that you are an active participant and fully contributed to the output produced by that group.