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Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaftliche Fakultät
Universität Potsdam

Seminar "Advanced Topics in International Environmental Policy"
Hauptseminar "Ausgewählte Themen der Internationalen Umweltpolitik"
(Internationale Politik & Internationale Politikfeldforschung)
Winter Semester 1998/99

Goals
The purpose of the course is to provide participants with an overview of climate change policy in comparison to other regulatory domains of global environmental policy. In addition, students will be introduced to the economic literature on instruments of international environmental policy.

Logistics
Time: every Wednesday, 21 October - 16 December 1998, 14:00 h (c.t.) - 17:00 h; additional meetings will be scheduled for the presentation of the seminar papers.
Location: Room 4.17.201, location: Park Babelsberg.
Remark: All reading materials can be found in a Seminar folder at the University Library, location: Griebnitzsee (in progress).

Prerequisites
Students must have taken introductory courses on “Theories of International Relations” as well as an introductory course on “International Environmental Policy.” In case students have not taken the latter course, they are required to familiarize themselves with the material covered in my course taught during the Summer Semester 1998, especially weeks 2-4. Students also must have active e-mail accounts, be able to use the World Wide Web (WWW), and have command of the English language (esp. reading).

Course Requirements
This course combines (i) intensive readings in advance of the weekly sessions (beginning with week 2), (ii) preparation of a three-page policy analysis of an important aspect of the 4th Conference of the Parties under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, (iii) a 2-page exposé of their term paper, (iv) oral presentation of their term paper, and (v) a 20-page term paper. In addition, oral participation will count towards the course grade.

Office Hours
After the seminar and by appointment.

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Note: I am out of town 31 October - 15 November 1998 and 04 - 08 January 1999.

Some Sources on the World Wide Web (WWW)

Convention to Combat Desertification http://www.unccd.ch
European Environment Agency (EEA) http://www.eea.dk
International Studies Association (ISA), Environmental Studies Section (ESS) http://csf.colorado.edu/isa/sections/ess
UN Environment Programme (UNEP) http://www.unep.ch
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Climate Change Secretariat) http://www.unfccc.de
UN Ozone Secretariat http://www.unep.org/unep/secretar/ozone
US Global Change Research Information Office (GCRIO) http://www.gcrio.org
US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) http://www.usgcrp.gov/usgcrp
Wissenschaftlicher Beirat Globale Umweltveränderungen (WBGU) http://www.awi-bremerhaven.de/WBGU
World Resources Institute (WRI) http://www.wri.org/wri

For a broad range of WWW-based sources, see the Webpage by Ronald Mitchell:
http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~rmitchel/

Course Requirements

1. 3-page policy analysis  
The 3-page policy analysis paper will analyze one important issue (of the student's choice) under negotiation at the 4th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-4, 02 - 13 November 1998) (e.g., joint implementation, emissions trading, clean development mechanism, etc.).

For daily reporting, students are encouraged to look at the WWW site of the UN FCCC Secretariat as well as at the ENB site (see above). In addition, ENB offers a free subscription to its very useful CLIMATE-L moderated e-mail mailing list which includes, inter alia, a weekly summary of the media coverage of English-speaking media throughout the year.

1.1 Remark:  
The basic point of the paper is to concentrate on one important aspect of the negotiations and evaluate the relative progress (which may be negative) achieved at COP-4 from an International Relations perspective. For concepts, see my course on "Introduction to International Environmental Policy" (Summer Semester 1998).

1.2 Submission:  
Papers have to be submitted (i) via e-mail (on 16 November 1998, 18:00 h) and (ii) in print (at the beginning of the seminar session on 18 November 1998) in identical form. Send the paper as attachment, formatted as MS Word 6.0 or in Rich Text Format (RTF) to dsprinz@pik-potsdam.de

2. Exposé & Term Paper:  
The term paper will consist of a comparison of climate change policy with (at least) one other domain of global environmental policy (desertification, stratospheric ozone depletion, biodiversity).
2.1 Remark: Students will make original contributions by going beyond the material found in the readings and developing explanations of their own. The factual basis should be summarized in compact form. Crucial to the success of the paper is derivation of a phenomenon under investigation (dependent variable) and explanation of variation in the dependent variable by way of independent variables. In order to reduce complexity, please concentrate on a few variables and analyze their effects in depth.

The term paper is preceded by a 2-page exposé which provides a table of contents and concise summary of how the student will approach the term paper. Students will receive comments on their exposé prior to their oral presentations. The revised exposé will also form the basis for the oral presentation of the term paper. The term paper consists of no more than 20 pages.

2.2 Submission: The exposé is due on 30 November 1998, noon, via e-mail. The term papers are due on 22 January 1999 via e-mail and, in printed form, via regular postal mail to my office address (see page 1). Send the exposé and term papers as attachment, formatted as MS Word 6.0 or in Rich Text Format (RTF) to dsprinz@pik-potsdam.de.

3. Format of all Papers At minimum, leave one inch margins from all four edges of A-4 sheets. Footnotes are discouraged, esp. in the policy analysis paper and the exposé. All text is 1.5-spaced, 10-12 point font. Exposés and papers exceeding the format requirements and page limits will not be accepted.

4. Oral Participation The seminar sessions provide you with the opportunity to discuss the readings and relevant current developments.

Grading

1. Policy Analysis Paper: 20%
2. Exposé of Term Paper: 10%
3. Oral Presentation of Term Paper: 10%
3. (Written) Term Paper: 40%
4. Oral Participation: 20%.

Week 1: 21 October 1998: Course Overview, Requirements, and Introductory Lecture

Overview of the Course & Requirements
Introductory Lecture on Climate Change Policy

Required Readings:

Week 2: 28. Oktober 1998 An Overview of Global Climate Policy

Lecture
Colloquium

Required Readings:


Additional Readings:


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**Weeks 3 & 4: 04 & 11 November 1998:** Fourth Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

*No Classes*

Observation of the Negotiations via WWW and Other Media

Preparation of Policy Analysis Paper; due on 16 November 1998 (see above)

Review of Concepts of "Introduction to International Environmental Policy" (for students who have not taken this or a similar course)

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**Week 5: 18 November 1998** Observations from the Fourth Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Policy Analysis Paper Due (16 November 1998, via e-mail; 18 November 1998, in printed form)

The Buenos Aires Lecture

Colloquium & Discussion of Policy Analysis Papers
Weeks 6 & 7: 25 November & 02 December 1998
Comparing the Regulation of
Global Climate Change to Stratospheric Ozone Depletion,
Biodiversity, and Desertification

Lecture
Colloquium
Exposé of Term Paper Due on 30 November 1998

Required Readings:
(Location at the University of Potsdam, Reading Room: MK 8900 INT).

Additional Readings:

Week 8: 09 December 1998
The Economics of International Environmental Policy (Part 1): Efficiency, Allocation, and Taxes

Lecture
Colloquium
Week 9: 16 December 1998  The Economics of International Environmental Policy (Part 2): Unilateralism and Coalitions

Lecture
Colloquium

Required Readings:

Term Paper Due on 22 January 1999