Global Climate Governance (430111)

Summer 2024

Professor Detlef F. Sprinz, Ph.D.

Purpose and Contents

This seminar provides an overview of global climate governance, incl. overarching conceptual frameworks, a variety of empirical subdomains, and central challenges encountered in global climate governance. Using a portfolio approach to examinations, students will prepare a range of individual and group assignments throughout the semester.

Learning Goals

Knowledge
Students will
- gain an overview of theoretical concepts and empirical domains of global climate governance and
- understand the strategic challenges in managing long-term climate policy challenges.

Skills
Students will undertake a range of assignments, both individually and in small groups. In particular, they will broaden their skills basis by
- introducing the class to two mandatory readings and
- responding to a central, yet hitherto unsolved, global climate policy challenge.

Competences
Students will
- apply a range of concepts and methods to generic global climate (and environmental) governance challenges,
- diagnose as well as propose remedies for long-term environmental climate challenges,
- explore new ideas for, e.g., for subsequent use in their Master thesis, and
- work individually as well as in groups on a diverse set of assignments.
Logistics

Time: →Course Overview
Location: Griebnitzsee, Building 6 (see Course Overview for room allocation)
Should circumstances not permit meeting in person, we will resort to Zoom.
Please regularly check →Moodle for announcements.
Zoom: In case we have to resort to Zoom, please check the →Moodle course for information.
Prerequisites: M.A., doctoral student status, or special students in Political Science,
Public Administration, MAIB, MPM, MA NIA, Economics, and Business Administration; exceptions at the discretion of the instructor.
Course Registration: →https://puls.uni-potsdam.de, Course: 430111
(you will be admitted to the waiting list). Students without access to PULS send a brief email to the instructor and indicate (1) first & last name, (2) email (University of Potsdam or other university email preferred), (4) field und semester of studies, (4) why they cannot access PULS, and (5) why they wish to take this course.
Deadline for Dropping the Course: 10 May 2024
Credit Points: 5-10 (ECTS)
Course website: Moodle →https://moodle2.uni-potsdam.de/course/view.php?id=40547
Capacity: 20
Contact Details:
detlef.sprinz@uni-potsdam.de (always include “GCG Summer 2024” in the subject line)
www.sprinz.org
Office Hours: by appointment (preferably, please inquire after class or during breaks)

Practicalities

This course requires usage of Moodle and Zoom for our remote communication and interaction. In addition, we may use other digital tools. We will use Moodle for contents management (self-enrollment for students with a University of Potsdam account) and Zoom for video (as needed).

Code of Conduct

If you are sick or have a communicable disease, incl. seasonal influenza, please stay at home and consult your medical doctor. If you miss an assignment, you must provide a medical doctor’s certificate.

All students are assumed to be familiar with and will abide by the rules of proper academic conduct as specified by the University of Potsdam (→https://www.uni-potsdam.de/am-up/2011/ambek-2011-01-037-039.pdf, German; https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin/projects/studium/docs/03_studium_konkret/07_rechtsgriindlagen/plagiatssrichtlinie_EN.pdf, English), and for courses offered jointly with other universities and academic programs, their rules apply in addition; by default, the strictest rule applies. You are expected to
undertake all your individual assignments independently. For group assignments, resulting products shall be authored exclusively by all group members (with individual components clearly marked). Failure to comply with such rules may lead to the consequences stipulated in →https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin/projects/ambek/Amtliche_Bekanntmachungen/2022/Ausgabe_19/ambek-2022-019-786-811.pdf (German) and →https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin/projects/studium/docs/03_studium_konkret/07_rechtsgrundlagen/BAMAO_Lesefassung_EN.pdf (English) (§17).

Each written paper submission of Assignment #3 (excl. presentation files) in this course shall include →https://www.uni-potsdam.de/fileadmin01/projects/wisofak/Dateien/Studium/informationen_f__r_studierende_plagiatssoftware_april_2014.pdf (attach only page 2; in German only).

Please note:
“Any use of AI to complete an assignment must be acknowledged in a citation that includes the prompt you submitted to the bot, the date of access, and the URL of the program.” (https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/Alguidance, 05 April 2025). Failure to do so constitutes academic misconduct (see above).

All (personal) information and material that you encounter in conjunction with this course, on →Zoom, or on →Moodle shall be exclusively used for course-related purposes; they are not part of the public domain.

During our seminar sessions, I expect you to concentrate solely on this course, not other activities.

In case you request accommodations (“Nachteilsausgleich”), please inform the instructors to this effect and provide the necessary documentation during the first three modules of this course.

In case observation of religious obligations interferes with academic deadlines, please notify the instructor well ahead of the deadlines.

For proper citation, please consult →https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/using-sources (English), https://www.uni-potsdam.de/de/cogsci-students/studienplanung/gute-wissenschaftlicher-praxis-plagiarismus (German), as well as https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/cogsci-students/organizing-your-studies/academic-code-of-conduct-plagiarism (English).

**Course Requirements and Grading**

Students are expected to attend all classes and read all required readings before class so as to allow for informed discussions.

This course comprises a portfolio of assignments. Students receiving 5-7 ECTS
conduct Assignment #3 as a group assignment; students wishing to receive 9-10 ECTS undertake Assignment #3 as an individual assignment. Please inform the instructor if you wish to receive 9-10 ECTS by 25 April 2024.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral Participation throughout the course (incl. joint thematic management of the session with other students who undertake Assignment #1 &amp; Assignment #2 for the same module as well as reports as rapporteurs)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #1: Memo on one journal article, paper, or chapter (individual assignment)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment #2: Memo on one journal article, paper, or chapter (individual assignment)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #3: Solutions for a Specific Global Climate Policy Challenge (individual/group assignment, presentation, Q&amp;A, and paper)</td>
<td>50%</td>
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**Course Overview**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment or Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>11 April 2024</td>
<td>9:00-10:30h</td>
<td>3.06. S21</td>
<td>Course Overview (instructor)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>18 April 2024</td>
<td>9:00-10:30h</td>
<td>3.01. H10</td>
<td>The Science of Climate Change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>18 April 2024</td>
<td>10:45-12:15h</td>
<td>3.01. H10</td>
<td>Climate Change as a Long-Term Policy Challenge</td>
<td>Assignment #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>25 April 2024</td>
<td>9:00-10:30h</td>
<td>3.01. H10</td>
<td>Global Climate Negotiations: History</td>
<td>Assignment #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>25 April 2024</td>
<td>10:45-12:15h</td>
<td>3.01. H10</td>
<td>Actors I: Countries</td>
<td>Assignment #1 Assignment #3: Suggested Topics will be announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>02 May 2024</td>
<td>9:00-10:30h</td>
<td>PIK, A31, Grand Cuploa</td>
<td>Actors II: Non-State Actors</td>
<td>Assignment #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>02 May 2024</td>
<td>10:45-12:15h</td>
<td>PIK, A31, Grand Cuploa</td>
<td>Guest Lecture: Prof. Jon Hovi (University of Oslo): Norms vs. Incentives</td>
<td>Prepare Questions for the Guest Lecturer</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>02 May 2024</td>
<td>19:00-21:00h</td>
<td>Zoom</td>
<td>Mandatory Group Consultation Sessions with Instructor on Assignment #3</td>
<td>20 minutes per group</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>03 May 2024</td>
<td>9:00-10:30h</td>
<td>3.06. S12</td>
<td>Compliance &amp; Implementation</td>
<td>Assignment #2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The schedule is indicative and subject to change. Check the course site on Moodle for updates and announcements.
Global Climate Governance (Syllabus)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09 May 2024</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 May 2024</td>
<td>9:00-10:30h</td>
<td>3.06. S16</td>
<td>Compensation/Loss &amp; Damage</td>
<td>Assignment #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 May 2024</td>
<td>10:45-12:15h</td>
<td>3.06. S16</td>
<td>Modeling Global Climate Negotiations</td>
<td>Assignment #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 &amp; 13 May 2024</td>
<td>9:00-10:30h</td>
<td>3.07. 0.39</td>
<td>Solutions for Long-Term Climate Policy Challenges</td>
<td>Presentations of Assignment #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 May 2024</td>
<td>10:45-12:15h</td>
<td>3.07. 0.39</td>
<td>Course Review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 May 2024</td>
<td>t.b.d.</td>
<td>3.06. S12</td>
<td>Backup (please keep this time slot reserved)</td>
<td>Assignment #3: Paper due on 07 June 2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Textbook & Readings


All other readings can be found on →Moodle.

Assignments

All Assignments

Assignments will be posted to →Moodle well ahead of the deadline. Submission deadlines are indicated in the →Course Overview.

When composing your individual or group papers, your emphasis is not on reviewing the material covered in the required readings; it is assumed that you (and all other course participants) have read it. Read the instructions carefully (!), build on the required readings, and innovate in a way not found in the required readings. AI is presently of limited help, so think independently. Leave the reader with the impression that your ideas (either individual or as a group) have been carefully chosen and could be expanded upon in a longer research paper or a Master thesis. Please note that keeping it short is the art of structuring one’s mind and concentrating on the main points rather than on peripheral considerations. It is more difficult to write a convincing short paper than a long paper!

All papers include your student ID number(s), assignment number (see overview),
and word count on the first page. At a minimum, leave one inch margins from all four edges of A4-sized sheets. Footnotes shall be kept to a minimum. All text is 1.5-spaced, 11-12 point font. Paper length will be strictly enforced (the word count includes literally everything). Papers shall be submitted – in Word and PDF formats – via Moodle by the due date and time (Assignment). Extensions will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances, following timely, written petition to the instructor.

In case of group assignments, all author ID numbers have to be listed, including a short description who contributed what.

In case you cannot submit assignments due to medical reasons, you must submit a medical doctor’s certificate to the instructor.

The allocation of individual students into groups is at the discretion of the instructor.

**Assignments #1 & #2: Introducing the Readings**

Sign up for a specific reading via Moodle Sign-Up Sheet for Assignment #1 and for Assignment #2. Please compose a max. 500 word paper reflecting on the central arguments of the reading, a critique thereof, and conclude with a lead question for the class. There is no need for a cover page. Submit the short paper no later than the Wednesday, 14:00h, preceding its presentation in class to Moodle.

Together with all other students presenting an assignment #1 or #2 for the same module, paper givers will offer a joint 5 minutes introduction to the topic of the module at large. Subsequently, we split into parallel breakout groups, led by the paper givers, and the discussion of each breakout group will be summarized by a rapporteur in the ensuing plenary. Assignment to breakout groups and to rapporteur status is random and at the discretion of the instructor. The instructor will visit the parallel breakout groups and subsequently will lead the concluding discussion in the plenary.

**Assignment #3: Solutions for Long-Term Climate Policy Challenges: Presentation, Q&A, Paper**

A range of indicative enduring challenges will be made available on 25 April 2024, yet you will be free to propose any comparable long-term climate policy challenge you wish to pursue. Please submit a (max.) one-page proposal (ungraded) by 02 May 2024, noon, and book (as a group [5-7 ECTS] or individual [9-10 ECTS]) a slot for consultation on 02 May 2024, 19:00-21:00h (first come, first served).

The final paper is due on 07 June 2024.
Module 1: Course Overview

Course Overview

In case of problems with the public transport sector, we will switch to Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting
https://uni-potsdam.zoom.us/j/69002312424
Meeting ID: 690 0231 2424
Passcode: 6478925876

https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096523000434

Module 2: The Science of Climate Change

German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. 2021. Climate Change: Causes, Consequences and Possible Actions (Factsheet). Halle (Saale), German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina,
https://doi.org/10.26164/leopoldina_03_00409 (may not work)
https://www.leopoldina.org/fileadmin/redaktion/Publikationen/Infomaterial/Factsheet_Klimawandel_1.1_EN_web.pdf

Module 3: Climate Change as a Long-Term Policy Challenge

https://doi.org/10.1111/gove.12768
https://doi.org/10.1177/00104140221141853

Module 4: Global Climate Negotiations: History

Dimitrov, Radoslav S. 2016. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change: Behind Closed Doors. *Global Environmental Politics* 16 (3), 1-11. doi:10.1162/GLEP_a_00361

Watch the videos:
- Christina Figueres: The Inside Story of the Paris Climate Agreement https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIA_1xQc7x8
- Obama on ‘Terrifying’ Threat of Climate Change https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpzuGfZ7xrY
- *Global Climate Policy since Paris?*

### Module 5: Actors I: Countries


### Module 6: Actors II: Non-State Actors


Vormedal, Irja, Lars H. Gulbrandsen, and Jon Birger Skjærseth. 2020. Big Oil and Climate Regulation: Business as Usual or a Changing Business? *Global Environmental Politics* 20(4), 143-166. https://doi.org/10.1162/glep_a_00565

Module 7: Guest Lecture by Prof. Jon Hovi (University of Oslo): Norms vs. Incentives


Module 8: Compliance & Implementation


Check www.unfccc.int (more specifically under the rubric of the Kyoto Protocol) for compliance issues.

Module 9: Effective Climate Governance?


Module 10: Compensation/Loss & Damage

Broberg, Morten. 2020. Interpreting the UNFCCC’s Provisions on ‘Mitigation’ and ‘Adaptation’ in Light of the Paris Agreement’s Provision on ‘Loss and
Module 11: Modeling Global Climate Negotiations

https://doi.org/10.17645/pag.v4i3.654

https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2017.1410090

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-022-01454-x

https://doi.org/10.1162/glep_a_00578

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818320000296

https://doi.org/10.1162/glep_a_00577

https://doi.org/10.1162/glep_a_00561

Modules 12 & 13: Solutions for Long-Term Climate Policy Challenges

Presentations + Q&A

Module 14: Course Review