

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), (3) field and 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_rechtsgrundlagen/plagiatsrichtlinie_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/fileadmin/01/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.

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

Course Overview¹

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

¹ The schedule is indicative and subject to change. Check the course site on →Moodle for updates and announcements.

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|------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|---|---|
| 9 | 03 May 2024 | 10:45- 12:15h | 3.06. S12 | Effective Climate Governance? | Assignment #2 |
| | 09 May 2024 | | | <i>Public Holiday</i> | |
| 10 | 16 May 2024 | 9:00- 10:30h | 3.06. S16 | Compensation/Loss & Damage | Assignment #2 |
| 11 | 16 May 2024 | 10:45- 12:15h | 3.06. S16 | Modeling Global Climate Negotiations | Assignment #2 |
| 12 & 13 | 23 May 2024 | 9:00- 10:30h | 3.07. 0.39 | Solutions for Long-Term Climate Policy Challenges | Presentations of Assignment #3 |
| 14 | 23 May 2024 | 10:45- 12:15h | 3.07. 0.39 | Course Review | |
| | 24 May 2024 | t.b.d. | 3.06. S12 | Backup (please keep this time slot reserved) | |
| | 07 June 2024 | | | | Assignment #3: Paper due on 07 June 2024 |

Textbook & Readings

Luterbacher, Urs and Detlef F. Sprinz. 2018. *Global Climate Policy: Change in an International Context*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press →*University of Potsdam library (electronic & print copies available)*.

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.

Modules

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

Konisky, David M. 2024. The Politics of Climate Policy Instruments. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 57(1), 21-24.

<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

Sprinz, Detlef F. 2009. Long-Term Environmental Policy: Definition, Knowledge, Future Research. *Global Environmental Politics* 9 (3), 1-8.

<https://direct.mit.edu/glep/article-pdf/9/3/1/1819669/glep.2009.9.3.1.pdf>

Sheffer, Lior, Peter J. Loewen, and Jack Lucas. forthcoming. Long-Term Policymaking and Politicians' Beliefs About Voters: Evidence From a 3-Year Panel Study of Politicians. *Governance*.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/gove.12768>

Finnegan, Jared J. 2023. Changing Prices in a Changing Climate: Electoral Competition and Fossil Fuel Taxation. *Comparative Political Studies*, 56(8), 1257-1290.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00104140221141853>

Module 4: Global Climate Negotiations: History

Bodansky, Daniel, and Lavanya Rajamani. 2018. Chapter 2: The Evolution and Governance Architecture of the United Nations Climate Change Regime.

Global Climate Policy: Actors, Concepts, and Enduring Challenges. U.

Luterbacher and D. F. Sprinz. Cambridge, MA, The MIT Press.

Brun, Aslak. 2016. Conference Diplomacy: The Making of the Paris Agreement. *Politics and Governance* 4 (3), 115-123.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.17645/pag.v4i3.649>

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

UNFCCC. n.d. Party Groupings.

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/parties-non-party-stakeholders/parties/party-groupings> (last accessed: 18 April 2024).

Sprinz, Detlef F., Guri Bang, Lars Brückner, and Yasuko Kameyama. 2018. Chapter 7: Major Countries. *Global Climate Policy: Actors, Concepts, and Enduring Challenges*. U. Luterbacher and D. F. Sprinz. Cambridge, MA, The MIT Press.

Michaelowa, Katharina, and Axel Michaelowa. 2018. Chapter 10: Equity and Development - Developing Countries in the International Climate Negotiations. *Global Climate Policy: Actors, Concepts, and Enduring Challenges*. U. Luterbacher and D. F. Sprinz. Cambridge, MA, The MIT Press.

Tørstad, Vegard, Håkon Sælen, and Live Standal Bøyum. 2020. The Domestic Politics of International Climate Commitments: Which Factors Explain Cross-Country Variation in NDC Ambition? *Environmental Research Letters* 15(2), 024021.

<https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ab63e0>

Lockwood, Matthew. 2021. Routes to Credible Climate Commitment: The UK and Denmark Compared. *Climate Policy*, 21(9), 1234-1247.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2020.1868391>

Module 6: Actors II: Non-State Actors

Skodvin, Tora. 2018. Chapter 8: Non-State Actors in International Policy-Making: The Kyoto Protocol and Beyond. *Global Climate Policy: Actors, Concepts, and Enduring Challenges*. U. Luterbacher and D. F. Sprinz. Cambridge, MA, The MIT Press

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

Witte, Daniel. 2020. Business for Climate: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis of Policy Support from Transnational Companies. *Global Environmental Politics* 20(4), 167-191.

https://doi.org/10.1162/glep_a_00560

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

- Bang, Guri, Jon Hovi, and Tora Skodvin .2016. The Paris Agreement: Short-Term and Long-Term Effectiveness. *Politics and Governance*, 4(3), 209-218.
<https://doi.org/doi:10.17645/pag.v4i3.640>
- Mitchell, Ronald B. and Charli Carpenter . 2019. Norms for the Earth: Changing the Climate on “Climate Change”. *Journal of Global Security Studies*, 4(4), 413-429.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/jogss/ogz006>
- Nyborg, Karine, et al. 2016. Social Norms as Solutions. *Science*, 354(6308), 42-43.
<https://doi.org/doi:10.1126/science.aaf8317>
- Young, Oran R. 2016. The Paris Agreement: Destined to Succeed or Doomed to Fail? *Politics and Governance*, 4(3), 124-132.
<https://doi.org/10.17645/pag.v4i3.635>

Module 8: Compliance & Implementation

- Dai, Xinyuan. 2005. Why Comply? The Domestic Constituency Mechanism. *International Organization* 59(2): 363-398
- Shishlov, Igor, Romain Morel, and Valentin Bellassen. 2016. Compliance of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in the First Commitment Period. *Climate Policy* 16(6), 768-782.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2016.1164658>
- Hovi, Jon, Mads Greker, Cathrine Hagem, and Bjart Holtmark. 2012. A Credible Compliance Enforcement System for the Climate Regime. *Climate Policy* 12 (6):741-754.
<https://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2012.692206>

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

Module 9: Effective Climate Governance?

- Dimitrov, Radoslav, Jon Hovi, Detlef F. Sprinz, Håkon Sælen, and Arild Underdal. 2019. Institutional and Environmental Effectiveness: Will the Paris Agreement Work? *WIREs Climate Change* 2019;e583.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/wcc.583>
- Tørstad, Vegard H. 2020. Participation, Ambition and Compliance: Can the Paris Agreement Solve the Effectiveness Trilemma? *Environmental Politics* 29(5), 761-780.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09644016.2019.1710322>
- Eskander, Shaikh M. S. U., & Sam Fankhauser. 2020. Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions From National Climate Legislation. *Nature Climate Change*.
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-020-0831-z>

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

- Damage'. *Climate Policy* 20(5), 527-533.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2020.1745744>
- Sprinz, Detlef F., and Steffen von Bünau. 2013. The Compensation Fund for Climate Impacts. *Weather, Climate, and Society* 5 (3):210-20.
<https://doi.org/10.1175/WCAS-D-12-00010.1>
- Read <https://www.munichre.com/en/risks/natural-disasters.html> (last accessed: 18 Feb. 2024)
- Swiss Re. 2014. *sigma Natural Catastrophes And Man-Made Disasters in 2013: Large Losses From Floods and Hail; Haiyan Hits the Philippines*, Zurich, Swiss Re, 15-27.
<https://www.swissre.com/institute/research/sigma-research/sigma-2014-01.html>
- Banerjee, Chandan et al. 2023. *sigma - Natural Catastrophes and Inflation in 2022: A Perfect Storm*. Swiss Re Institute, 1-19.
<https://www.swissre.com/institute/research/sigma-research/sigma-2023-01.html>

Module 11: Modeling Global Climate Negotiations

- Sprinz, Detlef F., Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Steffen Kallbekken, Frans Stokman, Håkon Sælen, and Robert Thomson. 2016. Predicting Paris: Multi-Method Approaches to Forecast the Outcomes of Global Climate Negotiations. *Politics and Governance* 4 (3), 172-187.
<https://doi.org/10.17645/pag.v4i3.654>
- Sprinz, Detlef. F., Håkon Sælen, Arild Underdal, and Jon Hovi. 2018. The Effectiveness of Climate Clubs under Donald Trump. *Climate Policy* 18(7), 828-838.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2017.1410090>
- Victor, David G., Marcel Lumkowsky, and Astrid Dannenberg. 2022. Determining the Credibility of Commitments in International Climate Policy. *Nature Climate Change*, 12(9), 793-800.
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-022-01454-x>
- Aklin, Michaël, and Matto Mildenerger. 2020. Prisoners of the Wrong Dilemma: Why Distributive Conflict, Not Collective Action, Characterizes the Politics of Climate Change. *Global Environmental Politics* 20(4), 4-27.
https://doi.org/10.1162/glep_a_00578
- Colgan, Jeff D., Jessica F. Green, and Thomas N. Hale. 2021. Asset Revaluation and the Existential Politics of Climate Change. *International Organization* 75(2), 586-610.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818320000296>
- Bayer, Patrick, and Frederica Genovese. 2020. Beliefs About Consequences from Climate Action Under Weak Climate Institutions: Sectors, Home Bias, and International Embeddedness. *Global Environmental Politics*, 20(4), 28-50.
https://doi.org/10.1162/glep_a_00577
- Hale, Thomas. 2020. Catalytic Cooperation. *Global Environmental Politics*, 20(4), 73-98.
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