GOV 365N: European Environmental Politics Spring 2013

Unique: 38943

Dr. Michael W. Mosser

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Course location: JES A209A

Course time: TTh 930 am-11:00 am

Office hours: W 1000 – 1100

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Course concept

Environmental politics is one area where Europe arguably leads the world. Europe has, at both the national and European-Union level, committed itself to achieving reductions in carbon emissions far greater than anywhere else in the world.

This course will examine the history of environmental politics in both the member states of the European Union and the EU itself. Beginning with a conceptual treatment of general environmental politics and policies, the course moves to a history of European environmentalism, before shifting to a discussion on the institutional responses at important 'traditional' Member States (Germany, France, Italy and the UK) as well as 'new' Member States (Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary). The final section of the course examines EU environmental policies themselves, such as the EU Emissions Trading System and its institutional commitment to meeting Kyoto Protocol goals.

Assignments and grading

Your course grade will consist of a midterm exam grade, a take-home final exam grade, a short paper grade and a discussion/participation grade. Grade percentages are as follows:

Exams: 50%

As this class is an upper-division course, a major portion of the grade for the course will consist of exams, consisting of a midterm exam and a take-home final exam. Both the midterm and the take-home final exam will be worth 25% of your course grade.

Paper: 30%

The paper for this class will be a short (2000 word) exploratory paper on one of the five topics chosen by the instructor. Such a paper should be a reasonably thorough treatment of the topic chosen, including a clear thesis statement, logical consistency in the arguments used to show the validity of the thesis, and a clear and concise conclusion that effectively summarizes your argument. The paper should be no more than 2000 words in length. Soon after the beginning of the semester, I will meet with each of you individually to discuss your choice of paper topic and your approach chosen to address it. The paper will comprise 30% of your total grade for the course. The paper grade itself will be divided into four sections:

- Topic choice: due 31 January. Worth 10% of paper grade (3% of course grade).
- Topic outline and list of references: due 14 February. Worth 20% of paper grade (6% of course grade).

- First draft of paper: <u>due 18 March</u>. Worth 20% of paper grade (6% of course grade).
- Final draft of paper: due 2 May. Worth 50% of paper grade (15% of course grade).

Discussion Leading / Participation / Discussion Questions: 20%

Class discussion in a an upper-level seminar is more than expected; it is a given. Everyone has his or her own style of discussion, and I do not expect to turn those who prefer not to speak often in class into debate champions. Nevertheless, I do expect that each of you will at some point in the semester lead a course discussion on the topic of your choosing. You will have your classmates' questions to serve as a point of departure (see below), which you may use as you wish. There will be a sign-up sheet distributed at the first and second class sessions for you to sign up to lead a discussion. The discussion leadership and general course participation will comprise 10% of your course grade.

So that we can discuss points raised in the online postings in Thursday's class, discussion questions for the week on which I am lecturing will be due by 5:00 pm every Wednesday (unless directed otherwise). They should be drawn from the readings and should reflect any questions, comments, or cries of outrage you may have regarding the arguments set forth by the authors. They most definitely will help you get the most from the class. I will prepare the first set of discussion questions as a template for future assignments.

A word on late or missed assignments. Over the course of the semester, it is inevitable that some event will cause a time management issue, which might lead to a missed assignment deadline. Though normally handled on a case-by-case basis, there are some baseline penalties for missed or delayed assignments, detailed here:

- Late topic choices will receive a 1% deduction per day before grading.
- Late topic outline and list of references will receive a 2% deduction per day before grading.
- Late paper drafts will receive a 5% deduction per day before grading.
- Missed exams will receive a 5% deduction per day until made up.
- Discussion postings will not be counted on an individual-post basis, but will be examined throughout the semester for evidence of consistent posting. Do not expect to "catch-up" post only at the end of the semester and receive full participation credit.

Other important information

<u>Plagiarism / academic misconduct:</u>

Don't do it. Minimum penalties for cheating are zeros on quizzes or exams where the cheating takes place, and a grade of F on a paper that has been plagiarized. Questions about what constitutes academic misconduct should be brought to my attention.

<u>Undergraduate Writing Center:</u>

The Undergraduate Writing Center, FAC 211, 471-6222: http://www.uwc.utexas.edu/) offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Any undergraduate enrolled in a course at UT can visit the UWC for assistance with any writing project. They work with students from every department on campus, for both academic and non-academic writing. Their services are not just for writing with "problems." Getting feedback from an informed audience is a normal part of a successful writing project. Consultants help

students develop strategies to improve their writing. The assistance they provide is intended to foster independence. Each student determines how to use the consultant's advice. The consultants are trained to help you work on your writing in ways that preserve the integrity of your work.

University of Texas Honor Code:

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community. Any student found guilty of scholastic dishonesty may receive an "F" in the course and be remanded to the appropriate University of Texas authorities for disciplinary action. For more information, view Student Judicial Services at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs.

Religious Holidays:

According to UT-Austin policy, students must notify the instructor of an impending absence at least 14 days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If a student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the student will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Student Privacy:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that student privacy be preserved. Thus the posting of grades, even by the last four digits of the social security number, is forbidden. All communication will remain between the instructor and the student, and the instructor will not be able to share details of the student's performance with parents, spouses, or any others.

Documented Disability Statement:

The University of Texas will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

Emergency Evacuation Policy:

In the event of a fire or other emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate a building rapidly. Upon the activation of a fire alarm or the announcement of an emergency in a university building, all occupants of the building are required to evacuate and assemble outside. Once evacuated, no one may re-enter the building without instruction to do so from the Austin Fire Department, University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Students should familiarize themselves with all the exit doors of each room and building they occupy at the university, and should remember that the nearest exit routes may not be the same as the way they typically enter buildings. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructors in writing during the first week of class. Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at http://www.utexas.edu/emergency.

Course calendar

Unit One: The Politics of the Environment

Tuesday 15 January

Topic:

· Putting a value on the environment

Readings:

- G. Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," Science 162:1243-1248 (1968).
- E. Ostrom et.al., "Revisiting the Commons: Local Lessons, Global Challenges," Science 284:278-282 (1999)

Thursday 17 January

Topic:

• Understanding environmental politics

Readings:

- Bierbaum, R., Holdren, J., MacCracken, M., Moss, R., Raven, P. (Eds.), 2007. Confronting Climate Change: Avoiding the Unmanageable and Managing the Unavoidable. United Nations Foundation, Washington, DC, 144pp
- Harrison, Kathryn, Lisa McIntosh Sundstrom (2007). "The Comparative Politics of Climate Change," Global Environmental Politics 7:4, pp. 1-18.

Tuesday 22 January

Topic:

• Understanding environmental politics (continued)

Readings:

 M. Shellenberger and T. Nordhaus. "The Death of Environmentalism: Global Warming Politics in a Post-Environmental World." (2004)

Thursday 24 January

Topic:

Global environmental politics

Readings:

- Matthew Paterson, "Introduction" from Understanding Global Environmental Politics: Domination, Accumulation, Resistance
 - Available on Blackboard

Unit Two: The History of European Environmental Politics

Tuesday 29 January

Topic:

• (Western) European environmental politics

Readings:

- Hanf, Kenneth and Alf-Inge Jansen, Governance and environmental quality: Environmental politics, policy and administration in Western Europe. (New York: Addison Wesley Longman, 1998)
 - selections

Thursday 31 January

Topic:

(Western) European environmental politics (continued)

Readings:

• Müller-Rommel, Ferdinand, "The Lifespan and the Political Performance of Green Parties in Western Europe," *Environmental Politics* 11:1 (2002), pp. 1-16.

Tuesday 5 February

Topic;

• (Eastern) European environmental politics

• Waller, Michael and Frances Millard, "Environmental politics in Eastern Europe," *Environmental Politics* 1:2 (1992), pp. 159-185.

Thursday 7 February

Topic:

• (Eastern) European environmental politics (continued)

Readings:

• Waller, Michael, "The environmental issue in the East of Europe: top-down, bottom-up and outside-in," *Environmental Politics* 19:5 (2010), pp. 831-849.

Unit Three: Environmental politics in Germany, France and the United Kingdom

Tuesday 12 February

Topic:

Environmental policies in Germany

Readings:

- Boehmer-Christiansen, S.; Skea, J. Acid politics: environmental and energy policies in Britain and Germany.
 - Selections to be determined

Thursday 14 February

Topic:

• Environmental policies in Germany (continued)

Readings:

• Knill, Christoph and Andrea Lenschow, "Coping with Europe: the impact of British and German administrations on the implementation of EU environmental policy," *Journal of European Public Policy* 5:4 (1998), pp. 595-614.

Tuesday 19 February

Topic:

Environmental politics in Germany (continued)

Readings:

- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, "<u>Environmental Performance</u> Reviews: Germany" (2012)
- Brand, Karl-Werner, "Dialectics of institutionalisation: The transformation of the environmental movement in Germany," *Environmental Politics* 8:1 (1999).

Thursday 21 February

Topic:

• Environmental politics in France

Readings:

- Prendiville, Brendan. Environmental Politics in France (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1994)
 - selections

Tuesday 26 February

Topic:

• Environmental politics in France

Readings:

 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), "Conclusions and Recommendations of the OECD Environmental Performance Review of France" (2005)

Thursday 28 February

Topic:

• Environmental politics in the United Kingdom

- Boehmer-Christiansen, S.; Skea, J. Acid politics: environmental and energy policies in Britain and Germany.
 - Selections to be determined

Tuesday 5 March

Topic:

• Environmental politics in the United Kingdom

Readings:

• HM Government (UK), OECD Environmental Performance Review: The UK's Progress Report (2006)

Thursday 7 March

Topic:

MIDTERM EXAM

Tuesday 12 March - NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK

Thursday 14 March - NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK

Unit Four: Environmental politics in Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary

Tuesday 19 March

Topic:

• Environmental politics in Poland

Readings:

- Andersson, Magnus, "Setting the Stage" and "National Environment Policy in the 1980s," in Change and Continuity in Poland's Environmental Policy (Springer, 2000)
 - Available on Blackboard

Thursday 21 March

Topic:

Environmental politics in Poland (continued)

Readings:

• Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, "Environmental Performance Review of Poland"

 Government of Poland, "<u>The National Economic Policy for 2009-2012 and its 2016 Outlook</u>," Warsaw, Poland (2008)

Tuesday 26 March

Topic:

• Environmental politics in the Czech Republic

Readings:

• Horak, Martin, "Environmental Policy Reform in the Post-communist Czech Republic: the Case of Air Pollution," Europe-Asia Studies 53:2 (2001), pp. 313-337.

Thursday 28 March

Topic:

Environmental politics in the Czech Republic (continued)

Readings:

- Government of the Czech Republic, Ministry of the Environment, "State environmental policy of the Czech Republic"
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, "Environmental Country Review: Czech Republic"

Tuesday 2 April

Topic:

• Environmental politics in Hungary

Readings:

 György Enyedi, Viola Zentai, "<u>Environmental policy in Hungary</u>" Discussion papers no. 2 (1986)

Thursday 4 April

Topic:

• Environmental politics in Hungary (continued)

- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), "Environmental Country Reviews: Hungary"
- European Environment Agency, "2011 survey of resource efficiency policies in EEA member and cooperating countries - HUNGARY"

Unit Five: European Union Environmental Policies

Tuesday 9 April

Topic:

• A history of EU environmental policies

Readings:

• Christian Hey, "<u>EU Environmental Policies: A short history of the policy strategies</u>" European Environment Bureau (EEB)

Thursday 11 April

Topic:

• The European Union Emissions Trading System

Readings:

 Jon Birger Skjærseth, Jørgen Wettestad (2009) "The Origin, Evolution and Consequences of the EU Emissions Trading System" Global Environmental Politics, 9:2, pp. 101-122

Tuesday 16 April

Topic:

The European Union Emissions Trading System (continued)

Readings:

- Commission of the European Union, DG Climate Action, "The EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)"
- EU ETS Factsheet

Thursday 18 April

Topic:

European attitudes towards pesticides and toxic substances

Readings:

- S. Jasanoff, "Technological Risk and Cultures of Rationality," in National Research Council, Incorporating Science, Economics and Sociology in Developing Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards in International Trade: Proceedings of a Conference (Washington, DC: National Academy Press), 65-84.
- M. Cone, "Beyond Silent Spring: A Global Assault on Sex Hormones and Immune Systems," in Cone, Silent Snow: The Slow Poisoning of the Arctic (Grove Press: 2006), 144-159.

Tuesday 23 April

Topic:

Pesticides and toxic substances (continued)

Readings:

- Commission of the European Communities. "White Paper: Strategy for a future chemicals policy", Brussels, COM(2001)88 final (32 pp.)
- Commission of the European Communities, Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH) Programme, http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/chemicals/reach.htm [browse]
- "The Chemical Industry, the Bush Administration, and European Efforts to Regulate Chemicals." Committee on Government Reform Minority Office, US House of Representatives. http://oversight.house.gov/story.asp?ID=427 [Read the report (21 pp.), browse through the supporting documentation.]
- "European Environmental Rules Propel Change in US," New York Times, July 6, 2004.

Thursday 25 April

Topic:

European GMO policies

- Commission of the European Union, DG Health and Consumers, "Genetically Modified Food and Feed"
- Commission of the European Union, "Reg. 1829/2003 on GM food & feed" (summary)
- Commission of the European Union, "Reg. 1830/2003 GMOs traceability, labelling & derived food & feed" (summary)
- Commission of the European Union, DG Health and Consumers, "Questions and answers on the evaluation of the European Union's GMO legislation"

Tuesday 30 April

Topic:

• European GMO policies (continued)

Readings:

- D. Winickoff et al., "Adjudicating the GM Food Wars: Science, Risk, and Democracy in World Trade Law," Yale Journal of International Law, Vol. 30 (2005), pp. 81-123.
- PEW Initiative on Food and Biotechnology, "<u>U.S. vs. EU: An Examination of the Trade Issues Surrounding Genetically Modified Food</u>"

Thursday 2 May - LAST CLASS DAY

Topic:

• Class wrap-up

FINAL EXAM Monday 13 May 2013 9:00-12:00