



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2024

7,358: Climate and Energy Governance

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

central - Written examination, Digital, Individual work individual grade (70%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: Lecture-free period

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (15%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (15%)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7,358,1.00 Climate and Energy Governance](#) -- English -- [Rinscheid Adrian](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

This course is open to all students with an interest in the course contents (see below). Prior attendance of related classes with an energy or climate focus is welcome but not mandatory.

Learning objectives

Students will:

- Discuss the main trends and challenges of contemporary climate and energy governance from perspectives rooted in public policy, comparative politics and the environmental social sciences;
- Identify ways in which decarbonization impacts existing power structures in the international system;
- Analyze the interests and interactions of key players in international climate and energy governance;
- Understand the variety of national models of climate governance;
- Examine different societal, economic and political drivers towards low-carbon energy systems;
- Apply key concepts and theories to make sense of past and ongoing political developments surrounding climate change and energy systems.

By the end of this course, students will have acquired a basic and structured understanding of climate and energy governance in the 21st century. They will be able to critically reflect upon the challenges that have prevented the global community from effectively tackling the climate crisis so far. Moreover, they will have a better sense of the opportunities that arise for states, businesses and citizens that embark on pathways towards a sustainable energy system.

Course content

Climate change and the transformation of energy system have risen to the top of policy agendas around the world. According to the United Nations, climate change is “the defining issue of our time”. Although efforts to confront climate change have been undertaken at various levels for three decades, the collectively agreed goal to keep average global temperature rise within 1.5 to 2°C is currently not within reach. And although the world has experienced a diffusion of low-carbon innovations at unprecedented scale, today’s energy systems are still a major roadblock to achieving net zero targets. There is widespread recognition that climate change is deeply entangled with international security, economic development, social justice, and other Earth-system processes, such as biodiversity loss. In addition, the Russian war against the Ukraine has exposed the great



vulnerability of Europe's energy systems and accelerated the search for alternative energy sources, which in turn is leading to global repercussions.

The challenge to replace fossil fuels and associated technologies, infrastructures, business models, institutions and mental models with more sustainable alternatives involves public and private actors in multiple sectors (electricity, transport, agri-food) and at multiple governance levels (local, regional, national, international). In light of the Paris Climate Agreement, which sets the scene for global climate governance, some countries have enacted ambitious climate and energy policies, including the phase-out of conventional energy sources and substantial increases in both energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. Yet, others show little sign of moving away from conventional fuels. And some administrations have reversed progressive energy and climate policies.

Understanding the basics of climate and energy governance provides the relevant skills and tools for anyone motivated to become a change agent towards a decarbonized and climate-resilient society. In this course, we will work together to better understand the wicked challenges that characterize climate and energy governance, and to assess promising avenues for more effective governance. Our learning journey encompasses the following questions, among others:

- How does international climate governance need to be complemented in order to become effective?
- What are the most promising instruments in the climate policy toolbox?
- Why does climate policy consistently stay behind scientific recommendations?
- How can the energy transition be implemented in a just and equitable way?
- Is Switzerland prepared to bring about the comprehensive changes required to make the energy transition a success?
- What levers do civil society actors use to accelerate climate action, and with what success?
- Why does the financial sector play a key role in the decarbonization of the global economy?

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course is based on 12 sessions of 105 minutes each. During the first session, the lecturer will provide an overview on the course and introduce fundamental concepts for the study of climate and energy governance. The following 11 sessions will focus on more specific key areas, including:

- The climate policy toolbox: Carbon pricing, green industrial policy and beyond
- International climate governance from Rio to Baku
- National models of climate governance
- Climate change mitigation in a direct democracy
- Public understanding of climate change
- The role of business and policy in transforming energy systems
- Finance and civil society as drivers of the low-carbon transition
- The just transition: Governance concept and practical implementation
- Geopolitical implications of the energy transition
- Low-carbon transition beyond the electricity sector: transport and agri-food

All topics will be systematically introduced and explained by the lecturer. Short group assignments during the sessions will contribute to students' understanding of the topics indicated above. In addition, a guest lecturer will share her practical insights in key areas of climate and energy governance and discuss her experiences with the students.

For all sessions, active student participation is essential. As a preparation, students are required to read one or two shorter mandatory texts for each session (available on Studynet). Each student is required to post at least one short comment or question per course topic in the respective Studynet discussion forum. The questions/comments need to relate in some way to one of the mandatory reading(s) for each topic, and they need to be posted at least 6 hours before the respective session. This preparatory method will contribute to everyone's learning experience, and it will be part of the grade (15%).

In 8 sessions (2 sessions before the break; 6 after the break), small student groups (2-3 students per group) will deliver short (5-min.) presentations to shed light on the track record of a particular country in climate and energy governance in a concise and systematic way. These presentations will be part of the students' grade (15%). Countries to be covered by these presentations include Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Kingdom, among others. After each of these presentations, there will be room for discussing these countries' roles in more depth.

The course will be concluded with a central examination, which makes up the remaining (70%) part of the grade.

Course literature



To prepare for the course, students are encouraged to take a close look at the introduction/executive summaries of the following reports:

- IEA World Energy Outlook 2023, Paris: IEA. <https://www.iea.org/reports/world-energy-outlook-2023/executive-summary>
- IPCC 2021: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis - Summary for Policymakers. https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf

For each session following the introductory session, students are expected to prepare assigned course readings that enable them to participate actively. These course readings will be made available via Studynet.

Additional course information

Since February 1st, 2024, Dr. Rinscheid is an assistant professor of Climate Policy & Decision Making (with Tenure Track) at the School of Economics and Political Science (SEPS-HSG). He is involved in a number of international research projects on the governance and politics of climate change and energy system transformations. His research on the political dimensions of decarbonization has appeared in leading international journals such as *Nature Energy*, *Regulation & Governance*, *One Earth*, and *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*. Prior to joining the University of St.Gallen, he was an Assistant Professor of Environmental Governance and Politics at Radboud University, the Netherlands. He serves as a guest editor for the journal *Environmental Politics* and on the editorial board for *Energy Research & Social Science*.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Written examination
Responsible for organisation	central
Examination form	Written exam
Examination mode	Digital
Time of examination	Lecture-free period
Examination execution	Synchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	70%
Duration	90 mins.

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark

Written examination after the semester

Examination-aid rule

Closed Book

The use of aids is prohibited as a matter of principle, with the exception of pocket calculator models of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and, in case of non-language exams, bilingual dictionaries without any handwritten notes. Any other aids that are admissible must be explicitly listed by faculty members in the paragraph entitled "Supplementary aids" of the course and examination fact sheet; this list is exhaustive.

Procuring any aids, as well as ensuring their working order, is the exclusive responsibility of students.



Supplementary aids

No examination aids allowed.

The examination will be conducted as a digital examination with the following admissible media:

- **Private notebook** (compulsory) – no tablets!
- **Mains adapter** (compulsory)
- External computer mouse (optional)
- External computer keyboard (optional)

We would like to point out explicitly that the examination cannot be taken with tablets/iPads.

You will need the following for the examination:

- Appliance and system requirements: [cf. StudentWeb](#)
- Special software: [LockDown Browser](#)
- HSG log-in including access modalities
- WLAN – operational access to Eduroam

Please make sure that

- all the updates have been carried out before the examination.
- In the run-up to digitally conducted examinations, technical tests (mock examinations without grades) are carried out. Participation is urgently required!
- You yourself are responsible for the perfect working order of your appliance, [cf. also StudentWeb](#).
- Keyboard stickers in the language in which the examination is conducted (such as English, German, as well as Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Japanese, etc. in language examinations) are permitted. The stickers must be identical with the original characters of the language concerned.

Any use of additional appliances that are not listed above will be strictly prohibited throughout the examination.

Any necessary actions with another software or additional appliances require the express prior approval of the persons in charge of the examination and are only permitted under supervision.

Any infringement of these rules of conduct may be sanctioned as an infringement of the rules of the University.

2. Examination sub part (2/3)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Written work
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Written work
Examination mode	Digital
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	Off Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade



Weighting 15%
Duration --

Examination languages
Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark
Posting at least one comment per topic on StudyNet

Examination-aid rule
Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

Supplementary aids
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3. Examination sub part (3/3)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Presentation
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Oral examination
Examination mode	Analog
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Group work group grade
Weighting	15%
Duration	--

Examination languages
Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark
Presentation (5 min.) of a country's climate gov.

Examination-aid rule
Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

Supplementary aids
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Examination content

Written work/decentral (15%): Prior to each session, each student is required to post at least one short comment or question per course topic in the respective Studynet discussion forum. The questions/comments need to relate in some way to one of the mandatory reading(s) for each topic, and they need to be posted at least 6 hours before the respective session.



Presentation/decentral (15%): Small student groups (2-3 students per group) will deliver short (5-min.) presentations to shed light on the track record of a particular country in climate and energy governance in a concise and systematic way. These presentations complement the students' learning process throughout the semester. Students should use powerpoint slides for the presentations.

Written exam/central (70%):The central examination covers three elements: (1) the course contents delivered by the lecturer, (2) the main thrust of the mandatory reading(s) prepared for the individual sessions, and (3) the country profiles presented by students (in a version officially approved and uploaded by the lecturer). The other 2 grading components are designed in a way to support the students' learning and examination preparation process throughout the semester.

Examination relevant literature

For each session following the introductory session, students are expected to prepare one or two mandatory academic texts (available on Studynet at the beginning of the semester). The main thrust of these mandatory readings is also relevant for the central examination.

Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW51) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 43 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 34 (Thursday, 22nd August 2024);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 14. October 2024);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 43 (Monday, 21 October 2024);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before ending with de-registration period in CW 45 (Monday, 04 November 2024).