

**EUS 348/GOV 365U:**  
**European Environmental Politics**  
Spring 2024  
Unique: 35445/37525

Dr. Michael W. Mosser

Office: Mezes 3.222

Phone: 512.232.7280

Email: [mosserm@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:mosserm@austin.utexas.edu)

Course location: UTC 3.124

Course time: T/Th 9:30 am-10:45 am

Office hours: M 10:00 – 12:00 (Zoom)  
W 1000 – 1200 (in-person)

\* and by appointment

## 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 group paper grade, a paper presentation grade, and an attendance/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.

### **Group Paper: 30%**

The paper for this class will be a medium-length (3000 words, or roughly ten to twelve pages) exploratory paper on one of the five topics chosen by the instructor, written collectively in groups of five or six students (chosen randomly). 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. Soon after the beginning of the semester, I will meet with each group 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, and itself will be divided 50/50 between group and individual grade. The paper grade will be divided into four sections:

- Topic choice: due 20 January. Worth 10% of paper grade (3% of course grade).
- Topic outline and initial list of five references: due 10 February. Worth 20% of paper grade (6% of course grade).
- First draft of paper: due 10 March. Worth 20% of paper grade (6% of course grade).
- Final draft of paper: due 28 April. Worth 40% of paper grade (12% of course grade).
- Group paper presentation: due dates either 23 or 25 April (see Canvas). Worth 10% of paper grade (3% of course grade)

### **Attendance / Participation: 10%**

Attendance will be taken at 5 random points during the semester, each worth 1% of your grade. In-class participation will be graded based on active contributions:

- Attending every class (passive participation) = 80%.
- Attend every class and participate on a semi-regular basis = 90%.
- Attend every class and participate actively on a regular basis = 100%.

Attendance will count for 5% of your grade. Participation in-class will count for 5% of your grade.

### **Discussions: 10%**

Each week's discussion questions will be due every Saturday at midnight; the discussion forum locks at that time and there is no chance to post to that week thereafter. Postings can be drawn from the readings; in this case, they 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. Postings may also be brief synopses of newsworthy events. In this case, you must post both the link to the news story and a brief (50-word) précis of what the article discusses. Finally, postings may be replies to others' questions or news stories, as long as they are informative replies and not merely agree/disagree posts. One post (or a thoughtful reply to a post) counts as your post for that week.

There are no discussion postings necessary for midterm week. The total number of discussion postings will be counted at the end of the semester, and also 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.

- 12-15 postings: Full credit
- 8-11 postings: 70% credit
- 5-7 postings: 50% credit
- Less than 5 postings: No credit

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:

- Missed exams will receive a 5% deduction per day until made up.

#### Extra credit (up to 6 points):

Students who attend an academic lecture/event dealing with an international/global issue and hand in a typed, one-page summary may receive a three-point increase on an exam grade. The maximum extra credit for the semester is two lectures/events (a total of 6 extra credit points). Summaries must be turned in within seven days of the event.

## **Other important information**

### **Plagiarism and Academic Integrity**

Using someone else's work in your own writing without giving proper credit is considered plagiarism, a serious form of academic dishonesty that can result in severe penalties. Copying someone else's work, buying a paper and submitting it as your own, copying and pasting text (even with changes), or borrowing images from an online source, are some examples of plagiarism. Even if you plagiarize accidentally, you can be held responsible and penalized.

Learning to cite sources appropriately is an important part of becoming a professional. When you are unsure about citation, you are encouraged to ask your instructor (who is already an expert in the discipline) what is appropriate in the context of your assignment. Consultants at The [University Writing Center](#) can also help you determine whether you are citing sources correctly—and they have helpful guides online for using [direct quotations](#) and [paraphrasing](#). Reviewing those skills will help you feel confident that you are handling sources professionally in your writing.

The use of generative AI is encouraged with certain tasks and with attribution: You can choose to use AI tools to help brainstorm assignments or projects or to revise existing work you have written. When you submit your assignment, I expect you to clearly attribute what text was generated by the AI tool (e.g., AI-generated text appears in a different colored font, quoted directly in the text, or use an in-text parenthetical citation). Failure to do so will constitute academic misconduct/dishonesty and will be sanctioned appropriately.

You can read the University's definition of plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty in Sec. 11–402 of the [Student Conduct Code](#). For more information, visit the [Dean of Students' site](#).

### **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.

## Accessible, Inclusive, and Compliant Statement:

The university is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive learning environment consistent with university policy and federal and state law. Please let me know if you experience any barriers to learning so I can work with you to ensure you have equal opportunity to participate fully in this course. If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Disability and Access (D&A). Please refer to D&A's website for contact and more information: <http://community.utexas.edu/disability/>. If you are already registered with D&A , please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations and needs in this course.

## 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

16 January: Introduction to the course

- Instructor expectations
- Read: "[Global Predictions for 2024](#)" via Ipsos.com (especially the "Environment" section)

18 January: Putting a Value on the Environment

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

23 January: Understanding environmental politics and communicating climate change

- 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
  - Required: Executive Summary only
- Moser, Susanne (2016) "[Reflections on climate change communication research and practice in the second decade of the 21st century: what more is there to say?](#)"

25 January: Understanding Environmental Politics (continued)

- Shellenberger and T. Nordhaus. "[The Death of Environmentalism: Global Warming Politics in a Post-Environmental World](#) ." (2004)
- William Cronon, "[The Trouble with Wilderness: Or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature](#)," in Global Environmental History: A Reader (2013), pp. 339-363.
- Hulme, Mike. [Why We Disagree About Climate Change](#), ch. 1 (PDF)

30 January: Global Environmental Politics

- Matthew Paterson, "[Introduction](#)" from Understanding Global Environmental Politics: Domination, Accumulation, Resistance
- Mike Hulme, Why We Disagree About Climate Change
  - [Chapter Two](#)

1 February: Environmental justice as a concept in Europe

- "Issues in environmental justice within the European Union" Éloi Laurent  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2011.06.025>
- "[Environmental justice, environmental hazards and the vulnerable in European society](#)," European Environmental Agency (2019)

## 6 February: (Western) European Environmental Politics

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

## 8 February: (Western) European Environmental Politics (cont)

- Morten Andersson, Gunver Bennekou, Henning Schroll "[Environmental problems and environmental regulations in Western Europe, 1980–1989](#)," Environmental Management, March/April 1992, Volume 16, Issue 2, pp 187-194.

## 13 February: (Eastern) European environmental politics

- Waller, Michael and Frances Millard, "[Environmental politics in Eastern Europe](#)," Environmental Politics 1:2 (1992), pp. 159-185.
- 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.
- Vargha, Janos. "Drifting Countries: Politics and Environment in East Central Europe" in Environmental Cooperation in Europe: The Political Dimension Edited By Otmar Höll

## 15 February: Environmental politics in Germany (part one - historical)

- Boehmer-Christiansen, S.; Skea, J. Acid politics: environmental and energy policies in Britain and Germany.
  - Read German sections of [Chapters 1-4](#)
  - Read German sections of [Chapters 5 and 6](#)
  - Read entirety of [Chapter 10](#)

## 20 February: Environmental politics in Germany (part two - contemporary)

- 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.
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): [Environmental Performance Review \(Germany 2023\)](#)
  - Read "Assessment and recommendations"
- Brand, Karl-Werner, "[Dialectics of institutionalisation: The transformation of the environmental movement in Germany](#)," Environmental Politics 8:1 (1999).

## Recommended:

- European Commission, "[The Environmental Implementation Review 2019 COUNTRY REPORT GERMANY](#) "

22 February: Environmental politics in France

- Prendiville, Brendan. Environmental Politics in France (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1994)
  - [Introduction and Part One](#)
- Olivier Fillieule, “France”(2003) (pp. 59-79)

27 February: Contemporary French environmental politics

- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), “[Conclusions and Recommendations of the OECD Environmental Performance Review of France](#)” (2005)
- European Environment Agency, “[France Country Briefing \(2015\)](#)”

29 February: Environmental politics in the UK

- Boehmer-Christiansen, S.; Skea, J. *Acid politics: environmental and energy policies in Britain and Germany*
  - [Re-read UK sections of the chapters you've already read for Germany](#)

5 March: Contemporary UK environmental politics

- [THE OECD ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME: ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE UNITED KINGDOM \(EXECUTIVE SUMMARY\)](#)
- Sam Fankhauser, Alina Averchenkova and Jared Finnegan. 2018. “[10 years of the UK Climate Change Act](#)” Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment and the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy, London School of Economics.

7 March: **Midterm exam**

**12 / 14 March: Spring Break**

19 March: Polish environmental politics

- Andersson, Magnus, “[Setting the Stage](#)” and “[National Environment Policy in the 1980s](#),” in Change and Continuity in Poland’s Environmental Policy(Springer, 2000)
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, “[Environmental Performance Review of Poland \(2015\)](#)”
- European Environmental Agency, [Poland – State of Environment Report](#) (2015)
- Białowieża forest case study

21 March: Environmental politics in the Czech Republic

- Horak, Martin, “[Environmental Policy Reform in the Post-communist Czech Republic: the Case of Air Pollution.](#)” Europe-Asia Studies 53:2 (2001), pp. 313-327.
- 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 \(2018\)](#)”
  - [Read “Assessment and Recommendations”](#)
- European Environment Agency, “[Czech Republic Country Briefing \(2015\)](#)”

26 March: Environmental politics in Hungary

- György Enyedi, Viola Zentai, “[Environmental policy in Hungary](#)” Discussion papers no. 2 (1986)
- Krista Harper, [Wild Capitalism\(Introduction\)](#)
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), “[Environmental Country Reviews: Hungary \(2018\)](#)”
- European Environment Agency, “[Hungary country briefing \(2015\)](#)”

28 March: A history of European Union (EU) environmental policies

- Christian Hey, “[EU Environmental Policies: A short history of the policy strategies](#)” European Environment Bureau (EEB)

2 April: EU Nature Protection Policies (in class exercise)

- [The EU Nature Restoration Law](#) website
  - Read “[Proposal for a Regulation on nature restoration](#)”
  - Read “[EU strikes landmark deal on law to restore and protect nature](#)” The Guardian, 10 November 2023

4 April March: The Emissions Trading System (ETS)

- Commission of the European Union, DG Climate Action, “[The EU Emissions Trading System \(EU ETS\)](#)”
- [EU ETS Factsheet](#)

9 April: The ETS (continued)

- 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

11 April: Group paper in-class work session

16 April: EU GMO policies

- Commission of the European Union, DG Health and Consumers, “[Genetically Modified Food and Feed](#)”
- Commission of the European Union, “[1829/2003 on GM food & feed](#)” (summary)



- Commission of the European Union, “ [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](#) ”

18 Apr: EU Energy Policy

- European Parliament: "[Energy Policy: General Principles](#)"
- European Commission: "[2050 Long-Term Strategy](#)"
- European Commission: "[National Long-Term Strategies](#)"

23 April: Group paper presentations (Group A)

25 April: Group paper presentations (Group B)