



INSTITUTE FOR
EUROPEAN
STUDIES

*Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence
at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel*

www.ies.be

Course title:

Climate and Energy Governance in the European Union

Lecturer:

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Oberthür

Type of course:

Optional (part of the specialisation option "European Economic Governance")

Course content:

This course engages with the politics, policies and economics of the climate change and energy domains. Students will acquire an understanding of interconnections among these complex societal issues, will assess how policy-makers and others respond to the challenges, and will learn to critically assess these responses. The course analyses EU policies in these fields, including on climate mitigation, decarbonisation, emissions trading, renewable energy, energy efficiency, the internal energy market and energy security. It includes exploring the EU's role in the international cooperation on climate change as well as dynamics of the development of internal policy development. The role of the European Institutions and of EU member states are investigated. In the course, students will learn to assess policy responses through the lenses of concepts such as cost-benefit assessments, competitiveness concerns, policy integration and coherence, leadership and effectiveness. Furthermore, having understood the complex interconnections among politics, economics and policies, students will learn to critically assess the assumptions underlying actors' responses. Students will identify and question basic assumptions; will learn about the role of stakeholders in promoting a particular view; and will thereby develop the skills to assess and evaluate presented 'facts' for their true merit.

Learning outcome:

The learning objectives are threefold:

1. To acquire in-depth knowledge of the complex policy issues of climate change and energy, especially in the EU.
2. To understand the complex links and interactions between these policy issues, and the responses to them.
3. To develop advanced critical thinking skills applicable to climate and energy related questions.

Acquiring both such in-depth knowledge and critical skills will equip the student for a career in climate and energy-related fields, as analysts, lobbyists, activists, researchers, and administrators – within and outside government or EU institutions.