



Syllabus

Title of the Course:	Climate Change Politics: Issues, Actors and Debates	Course Breakdown:	28 online teaching hours 152 hours independent study Total 180 hours
Name of the Instructor:	Dr. Baran Alp Uncu	Weekly class time:	Wednesdays 15:00-17:00 (GMT+2)
Language:	English	ECTS	6
Hosted by:	Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich	Certificate issued by:	Ludwig Maximilian University
min. number of participants:	5	max. number of participants	30

Course description:

Climate change is the biggest global crisis that threatens life on our planet. 1 degree Celsius temperature increase since the middle of the 19th century has led to a series of events including sea-level rise, withdrawal of ice sheets, heat waves, extreme weather events, flash floods, wildfires, ocean acidification, irregularity of rainfall, extended droughts, water shortage, food crisis and loss of biodiversity. Unless precautions are taken immediately, temperature rise will pass the threshold of 1,5 degrees Celsius, accelerating the impacts of climate change that we already experience in our daily lives.

This course aims to analyze climate change in depth by looking at the political, economic, and social processes at work that produce ineffective governance of the issue. First, we will cover basic concepts and definitions to understand the issue at hand and how it can be studied. In this regard, theoretical frameworks that offer alternative readings of environmental problems such as ecological modernization, risk society, sustainable development, and the governance of commons will be discussed. Next, actors and arenas at the international, national, and local levels will be studied by building their links. These actors include international organizations, national governments, and local governments as well as civil society including NGOs and social movements. Emphasis will be put on the transnational climate movement- namely, the Climate Justice Movement- and local climate mobilizations in various parts of the world. We will discuss global climate policy making by examining the UNFCCC, COPs, and associated agreements. Finally, the course will show that climate change is a political, economic, and social issue that reproduces and exacerbates social inequalities and injustices. We will explore possible alternative efforts in Turkey and beyond under the rubric of “climate justice”

that aim to tackle these injustices and inequalities while addressing the climate crisis.

Course outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will have:

- developed an understanding of the reasons and impacts of climate change
- understood the major theoretical approaches to political ecology and related them to the issue of climate change.
- analyzed the processes, mechanisms, and dynamics of climate change politics at the global, national and local levels.
- explored the roles of civil society actors ranging from NGOs to social movements focusing on climate change.
- examined the concept of climate justice as well as concepts such as energy democracy, food sovereignty, commons, and de-growth that lead down low carbon pathways
- studied various case studies

Course requirements:

Students are expected to take active part in the discussion sessions each week that will follow the video lecture. A course project will be assigned in which students will each select an actor that works on a climate related issue. This can be a civil society organization, a local network or a local government. The student will gather data on their activities and the climate related processes they are involved in. They will then put together this information in a short essay (between 2500-3000 words, double space) and present it in the last weeks of the course (10 to 15-minute presentation). Students will also submit a long essay (between 4000-4500 words, double space) in response to questions given at the end of the course by the instructor.

Grading of the course will be based the following:

- Participation in discussions 20%
- Course project (a short essay and presentation) 40%
- Long essay 40%

1.Introduction: What is the problem of climate change? Why is it political?:

Romm, J., 2016. *Climate Change: What Everyone Needs To Know*, Oxford University Press, 1-30.

McKibben, B., 2019. *Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out?*, Holt: New York, chapter 1-2.

2. Theoretical tools to understand climate change: Ecological modernization, sustainable development, and risk society

Barry, J., 2005. 'Ecological Modernization' in *Debating the Earth, Environmental Politics Reader*, J. Dryzec and D. Schlosberg (eds.), Oxford University Press, 303-321.

Carruthers, D. 2005 (2000). 'From Opposition to Orthodoxy': the Remaking of Sustainable Development' in *Debating the Earth, Environmental Politics Reader*, J. Dryzec and D. Schlosberg (eds.), Oxford University Press: p. 285-300.

Beck, U., 2015, 'Emancipatory catastrophism: What does it mean to climate change and risk society?', *Current Sociology*, 63(1): 73-88.

3. Theoretical tools: political ecology, tragedy of the commons, property regimes

Martinez-Allier, J. 2002. *Environmentalism of the Poor*. Paper prepared for the conference on The Political Economy of Sustainable Development: Environmental Conflict, Participation and Movements, Johannesburg.

Meadows, Meadows, Randers and Behrens III. 1998. 'The Nature of Exponential Growth', in *Debating the Earth, The Environmental Politics Reader*, Dryzec and Schlosberg eds. p. 9-22.

Hardin. 1995 (1968). 'The Tragedy of the Commons', in Conca, Albery and Dabelko (eds.), *Green Planet Blues*, p. 38-45.

Feeny, Berkes, McCay, Acheson. 1995 (1990). 'The Tragedy of the Commons: Twenty-Two Years Later', in Conca, Albery and Dabelko (eds.), *Green Planet Blues*: p. 53-62.

04. International arena of climate change:

Hoffman, M. J. (2013) "Global Climate Change", in R. Falkner *The Handbook of Global Climate and Environment Policy*, Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 3-18.

Cle ´ mençon, R. (2016) "The Two Sides of the Paris Climate Agreement: Dismal Failure or Historic Breakthrough?", *Journal of Environment & Development*, 25(1): 3-24.

Jordan, A., D. Huitema, J. Schoenefeld, H. van Asselt and J. Forster (2018) "Governing Climate Change Polycentrically Setting the Scene" in A. Jordan, D. Huitema, J. Schoenefeld, H. van Asselt and J. Forster (eds.) *Governing Climate Change? Polycentricity in Action?* Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, 3-25.

5. National governments:

Falkner, R., 2013. "The Nation-State, International Society, and the Global Environment" in R. Falkner (ed.) *The Handbook of Global Climate and Environment Policy*, Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 3-18.

Genovese, F., 2014, 'States' interests at international climate negotiations: new measures of bargaining positions', *Environmental Politics*, 23, 4: 610-631.

Bomberg E., 2017. "Environmental politics in the Trump era: an early Assessment", *Environmental Politics*, 26(5): 956-963.

6. A contested idea: Climate Justice

Page, E., 2013. "Climate Change Justice" in R. Falkner (ed.) *The Handbook of Global Climate and Environment Policy*, Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 231-248.

Boran, I., 2019. "On Inquiry into Climate Justice" in M. Dietz and H. Garrelts (eds.) *Routledge Handbook of The Climate Change Movement*, Routledge, 27-41.

7. Non-state actors in the global climate governance:

Bäckstrand, K., J. W. Kuyper, B. O. Linnér and E. Lövbrand, 2017. "Non-state actors in global climate governance: from Copenhagen to Paris and beyond", *Environmental Politics*, 26(4): 561-579.

Allan J. I. and J. Hadden, 2017. "Exploring the framing power of NGOs in global climate politics", *Environmental Politics*, 26(4): 600-620.

Jennifer Clapp and Jonas Meckling in R. Falkner, 2013. "Business as a Global Actor", *The Handbook of Global Climate and Environment Policy*, Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell: 286-303.

8. Climate Justice Movement I

Hadden, J., 2014. "Explaining Variation in Transnational Climate Change Activism: The Role of Inter-Movement Spillover", *Global Environmental Politics*, 14(2): 7-25.

Della Porta and L. Parks, 2014. "Framing processes in the climate movement: from climate change to climate justice", in M. Dietz and H. Garrelts (eds.) *Routledge Handbook of The Climate Change Movement*, Routledge, 19-30.

9. Climate Justice Movement II

Fisher, S., 2014. "The emerging geographies of climate justice", *The Geographical Journal*, 181(1): 73-82.

Kössler, G., 2014. “The climate movement in Germany” in M. Dietz and H. Garrelts (eds.) *Routledge Handbook of The Climate Change Movement*, Routledge: 117-130.

Paker, H., E. Rurhan, and B. A. Uncu. “Untangling the complex landscape of climate justice politics in Turkey”, working paper.

10. New generation climate mobilizations

Doherty, B., J. De Moor, and G. Hayes, 2018. “The ‘new’ climate politics of Extinction Rebellion?”, *OpenDemocracy*, 27 November, available at <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/new-climate-politics-of-extinction-rebellion/>

Fisher, D.R. 2019. “The broader importance of #FridaysForFuture”, *Nat. Climate Change*, 9: 430–431

Kinniburgh, C. 2020. “Can Extinction Rebellion Survive?”, *Dissent*, Winter, available at: <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/can-extinction-rebellion-survive>

11. Cities for Climate Change: Urban Climate Justice

Bulkeley, H. and M. M. Betsill, 2013. “Revisiting the urban politics of climate change”. *Environmental Politics*, 22: 136–154.

Bulkeley, H., 2014. “Contesting climate justice in the city: Examining politics and practice in urban climate change experiments”, *Global Environmental Change*, 25: 31-40.

Cohen, D. A., 2018. *Climate Justice and Right to the City*, Penn: Current Research on Sustainable Urban Development, available at: <https://pennur.upenn.edu/uploads/media/Cohen.pdf>.

Steele, W., J. Hillier, D. Houston, J. Byrne and D. MacCallum, 2019. “The climate-just city”, in T. Jaffry (ed.) *Routledge Handbook of Climate Justice*, Routledge: 279-289.

12. Disadvantaged groups: Women and the Indigenous People

Perkins, P. E., 2019. “Climate justice, gender and intersectionality” in T. Jaffry (ed.) *Routledge Handbook of Climate Justice*, Routledge: 349-358.

Nuñez, A. J., 2019. “Mother Earth and climate justice: indigenous peoples’ perspectives of an alternative development paradigm” in T. Jaffry (ed.) *Routledge Handbook of Climate Justice*, Routledge: 420-430.

13. Alternatives and “just solutions”:

Climate Justice Alliance, *Just Transition Principles*, available at: http://neis.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/CJA_JustTransition_Principles_final_hi-rez.pdf.

2019. “From the dirty past to the clean future: addressing historic energy injustices with a just transition to a low-carbon future”, in T. Jaffry (ed.) *Routledge Handbook of Climate Justice*, Routledge: 211-221.

Routledge, P, A. Cumbers, and K. Driscoll Derickson, 2018. “States of Just Transition: realizing climate justice through and against the state”, *Geoforum*, 88: 78-86.

Szulecki, K., 2018. “Conceptualizing Energy Democracy”, *Environmental Politics*, 27(1): 21-41. available at: <https://rsa.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09644016.2017.1387294#.XmKzg5MzaAx>

14. Review