



EC/ES 335 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND GREEN BUSINESS IN FREIBURG
IES Abroad Freiburg

DESCRIPTION:

In this course we will take a look at the “Green City” Freiburg: Historical roots and citizens’ movements; local environmental policy-making in light of greater (national and supranational) legal frameworks; policy measures in different areas of environmental concern; business ideas and opportunities in Freiburg and the “Regio”, its surrounding region. In four accompanying field trips, we will get to know local enterprises and learn firsthand about the relevance of economic incentives, the “Freiburg factor”, and individual entrepreneurship in doing “green business”.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: German

PREREQUISITES: none

ADDITIONAL COST: none

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lecture
- Discussion
- Student presentations
- Course-related trips

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Course participation – 15 %
- Freiburg Green Diary – 10 %
- Renewable Energy Project – 25 %
- Term Paper – 25 %
- Final Exam – 25 %

Course Participation – 15 %

Students are expected to participate in debates with questions related to the readings and Students are required to complete all reading assignments and will be expected to demonstrate this through regularly assigned homework, pop quizzes, and/or insightful and relevant contributions to in-class discussion. All these components will count toward the class participation grade. Participation also applies to course-related trips, outings and/or special events in and around Freiburg. A rubric for participation is available in the appendix and on Moodle. This includes both contributions to discussion as well as a “green press” presentation (summary of one week’s articles about green Freiburg in the local newspaper).

Freiburg Green Diary – 10 %

Students will reflect individually about an environmental policy measure, project or green business idea they have come across in Freiburg.

Renewable Energy Project – 25 %

Students will work in teams on particular questions regarding renewable energy policy: group presentation, peer review and individual write-up.



Term Paper – 25 %

Based on one of the presented “green press” articles, their diary entry, or their project, students write a 10-13 page long research paper.

Final Exam – 25 %

Comprehensive in nature, consisting of structured short questions and a longer essay question.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Define the foundations of environmental policy.
- Recognize what constitutes Freiburg as a “Green City”.
- Explain various policy measures in different areas of environmental concern.
- Critically discuss green business in and around Freiburg through first-hand experience.
- Assess environmental policy outcomes through critical reflection.
- Give examples of possibilities and limits regarding the transfer to other cities.

Attendance Policy

IES Abroad courses are designed to utilize the unique contribution of the instructor; the lecture/discussion format is regarded as the **primary mode of instruction**. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. Any unexcused absence will incur a penalty on your final course grade. Deductions from grades due to absences are based on sessions (= 90 minutes). Any unexcused absence will incur a penalty on your final course grade (1 absence - 1%, 2nd absence -2%, 3rd absence – 3%).

Any student who has more than three (3) unexcused absences will receive an “F” as the final grade in the course. Any student who misses more than 25% of a course, whether the absences are excused or are unexcused, will receive an “F” as the final grade in the course. Students in the LAS program can excuse themselves once per course - to do so, they must notify the instructor and the Academic Dean in writing by e-mail before the start of the session. Any further excused absences must be excused by IES.

If you miss a class, it is **your responsibility** to make up on everything that was covered in class. Tests/presentations missed during unexcused absences **cannot be made up**.

Arriving late for class: Punctuality is important for the planned course schedule. If you are late for class, the late time will be recorded and added up at the end of the course. You will receive a grade reduction based on the accumulated amount of missing contact hours, according to the rule above (i.e., if you were late by 15 minutes for 6 sessions, your grade would be reduced by 1%).

LATE OR FAILURE SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS: Late submission of assignments or failure of submission of assignment results in the grade F of that particular assignment. This does not apply to late or non-submission due to illness with an excused absence.

Excused absence: Please call the IES Center before the start of your first class if you are ill and would like to be excused from your course, as outlined in the “Cell Phone and Attendance Policy” handed out during orientation. Student Affairs staff will decide whether your absence can be excused directly or whether a doctor’s note is necessary. Absences due to religious observances and family emergencies may be excused at the discretion of the Center Director, with written approval. A petition for an excused absence due to a religious holiday needs to be submitted 2 weeks in advance. If permission is granted, the student needs to inform the Academic Dean, the Student Affairs Team and their instructors. Absences due to private travel or travel delays cannot be excused, even with advanced notice

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE:

Students are expected to abide by the IES Abroad Code of Academic Integrity. The detailed IES Abroad academic integrity code can be accessed on Moodle.

All work submitted by a student for academic credit should constitute the student's own original work. Regardless of the quality of work, plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course and/or an academic review and possible expulsion from the program. Plagiarism may be broadly defined as “copying of materials from sources, without acknowledging having done so, claiming other’s ideas as one’s own without proper reference to them, buying materials such as essays/exams, and using AI-generated content without disclosure.”

As AI tools continue to evolve, learning how to use them responsibly is an important emerging skill. Some of our courses allow students to explore the use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI) tools such as ChatGPT for some assignments and assessments. The

instructor of each course will communicate whether GAI may be used in a course and provide specific guidelines and procedures for its appropriate use.

Updated information on your course and readings, including additional readings from journalistic articles, can be found on the Moodle platform at <https://moodle.iesabroad.org/login/index.php>

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments and Readings
Week 1	Session 1: Introduction & Organizational Issues	
	Session 2: Freiburg – a primer: History, Politics, Economy, Society and Environment	• Frey, pp. 32 – 67. • Short video about Freiburg on Moodle, feat. the “green” mayor
Week 2	Session 3: Introduction to Environmental Economics and Policy: Environmental Externalities Pollution Control Targets and Instruments	• Stengel/Wüstner, pp. 35-66.
	Session 4: Environmental Policy: A multi-level field of policy: Supranational – National – Local	• Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, pp. 52-74.
Week 3	Session 5: Waste Management I – global trends and German policies (green dot/yellow bag; the can deposit) Freiburg’s waste management in practice	• Stadt Freiburg, Ch. I, 5.
	Session 6: Waste Management II <i>Course-Related Trip: “Recyclinghof Freiburg”</i>	
Week 4	Session 7: Energy Management – trends and policies Freiburg’s targets and projects Electricity from Renewable Sources	• Stadt Freiburg, Ch. I, 4 • Freiburg’s CO2 Diet (http://www.freiburg.de/servlet/PB/menu/1171114_11/index.html)
	Session 8: Renewable Energy Project I: Introduction Work on content	• BMU • US EPA • REN21
Week 5	Session 9: Renewable Energy Project II Work on content	• BMU • US EPA • REN21

	Session 10: Renewable Energy Project III <i>Course-Related Trip: "Freiburg Renewable Power"</i>	
Week 6	Session 11: Renewable Energy Project IV Work on Presentations	• BMU • US EPA • REN21
	Session 12: Renewable Energy Project V: Presentations	
Week 7	Session 13: Green Production and Consumption I: Agriculture and the Environment	• Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, pp. 36-43.
	Session 14: Green Production and Consumption II <i>Course-Related Trip: "Dachswanger Mühle" (organic farm)</i>	
Week 8	Session 15: Sustainable Transport (Lessons from Transport Economics) Freiburg's Traffic Concepts: public transport strategies Discouraging use of cars, encouraging use of bikes	• Stadt Freiburg, Ch. I, 2; Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, pp. 44-51. • Video on moodle
	Session 16: City Planning and citizens' participation	• Stadt Freiburg, Ch. I, 1 and Ch. III, 1 and 3.
Week 9	Session 17: Freiburg: Ökostation, Waldhaus, Mundenhof Green City Office Solar tours	• Stadt Freiburg, Ch. III, 2. • Info on project „200 Familien fürs Klima“.
	Session 18: Research institutes and international environmental organisations (Fraunhofer ISE, ICLEI, Ökoinstitut,...) Uni Freiburg: a Green University?	• https://www.nachhaltige.uni-freiburg.de
Week 10	Session 19: The Green City and its image: praise by international media Critique by environmental organisations	• Stadt Freiburg, Ch. I, 7. • On moodle Badische-Zeitung • On moodle Guardian • On moodle Vorort Bund
	Session 20: Vauban has it all?	• Frey, pp. 100-141.

Week 11	Session 21: <i>Course-Related Trip: Quartier Vauban</i>	
	Session 22: Final discussion	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Recyclinghof Freiburg
- Freiburg Renewable Power
- Dachswanger Mühle (organic farm)
- Quartier Vauban

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (BMU): Erneuerbare Energien – Innovation für eine nachhaltige Energiezukunft, 2011.
- Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung [Ed.]: Umweltpolitik – Informationen zur politischen Bildung, 2008.
- Frey, Wolfgang: Freiburg Green City – Wege zu einer nachhaltigen Stadtentwicklung, 2011.
- Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21): Renewables 2010 Global Status Report, 2010.
- Stadt Freiburg im Breisgau: Umweltpolitik in Freiburg, 2010.
- Stengel, Martin and Kerstin Wüstner [Eds.]: Umweltökonomie, 1997.
- US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA): Renewable Portfolio Standard Factsheet, 2009.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Altmann, Jörn: Umweltpolitik, 1998.
- Feess, Eberhard: Umweltökonomie und Umweltpolitik, 2007.
- Freiburg Wirtschaft Touristik und Messe GmbH & Co. KG [Ed.]: Freiburg Green City, 2008.
- Various newspaper articles.

Appendix:

Rubric for course participation:

A	Excellent participation The student's contributions reflect an active reading of the assigned bibliography. Skillfully synthesizes the main ideas of the readings and raises questions about the applications and implications of the material. Demonstrates, through questions and comments, that they have been capable of relating the main ideas in the readings to the other information discussed in the course and with their own life experience. The student makes informed judgments about the readings and other ideas discussed in class, providing evidence and reasons. They respectfully state their reactions about other classmates' opinions and can contribute to the inquiry spiral with other questions. The student gets fully involved in the completion of the class activities.
B	Very good participation The student's contributions show that the assigned materials are usually read. Most of the time, the main ideas are identified, even though sometimes it seems that applications and implications of the information read were not properly reflected upon. The student can construct over others' contributions, but sometimes seems to interrupt the shared construction to go over tangents. They are respectful of others' ideas. Regularly involved in the activities but occasionally loses concentration or energy.

C	Regular participation The participant evidences a regular reading of the bibliography but in a superficial way. They try to construct over others' ideas, but commonly provide comments that indicate a lack of preparation about the material. Frequently, contributions are shallow or unarticulated with the discussion in hand.
F	Insufficient participation Consistently, the participant reads in a shallow way or does not read at all. Does not participate in an informed way and shows lack of interest in constructing over others' ideas.