DESCRIPTION: Environmental policy encompasses many different policy issues and levels. In this module, the focus lies on forest and climate policy at a regional, national, EU and global level. These two policy fields lend themselves to discussing the different characteristics and challenges of environmental policy and to identifying supportive and hindering relations between political subsystems.

Students will gain knowledge about forest and climate policy issues and developments, learn about different approaches in policy analysis and enrich their civic competence. As a crosscutting issue, the course will always look at the challenges of integrating knowledge into the policy-making process. Besides, time will be dedicated to the historical perspective in policy studies in order to broaden the awareness for long-term developments. The geographic emphasis lies on Germany, the European Union and other selected countries. Students will read different types of texts such as original research papers, reviews, policy briefs, reports or press releases. Students will be expected to consider their different structures and intentions.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: A background in policy analysis or environmental science is recommended but not required

ADDITIONAL COSTS: none

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
- Lectures
- Discussions
- Debates
- Group work
- Other activating methods (mind mapping, games)
- Video clips
- Student presentations (review of papers)
- Field trips (Strasbourg EU parliament, forest enterprise)

Moodle will be used to post additional material, share assignments, follow recent developments in the field and offer learning exercises.

Participation is part of the student’s grade; therefore all students are expected to contribute during classes.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
- Class participation - 10%
- Student presentations - 20%
- Midterm - 30%
- Term paper - 40%

Class Participation
Participation during discussions based on the required readings, lectures, personal experiences and field trips

Midterm
The midterm will be a multiple choice test based on the lecture and readings covered.

**Student Presentations**
Each day from the second day onwards, one student will present a summary of one of the papers that had to be read, including a critical reflection or discussion. Length 10-15 min.

**Term Paper**
The aim of the academic reflection on the content of the course (10-12 pages following the DIEP strategy (RMIT University 2015)) is to show that the student is familiar with policy analysis and can reflect on current issues in forest or climate policy.

Its scope and content will be clarified at the beginning of the course, so that students can work on it during the entire course. Any material contained in the course can be used, but also additional secondary literature, press releases or websites, which should be provided as references. It is also possible for students to reflect on forest or climate policy processes in their own municipality, state or country.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**
By the end of the course students will:
- Classify policy problems and "map" them
- Gain insights into different aspects of forest and climate policy (problem perception, actors and processes, role of science and others)
- Familiarize themselves with different approaches of policy analysis and be able to apply simple basic methods of policy analysis independently
- Learn about historical aspects of policies as well as future scenarios
- Train their analytical, presentation, and discussion skills

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** IES Abroad courses are designed to take advantage of the unique contribution of the instructor and the lecture/discussion format is regarded as the primary mode of instruction. Regular class attendance is mandatory.
- Every unexcused absence will lower your grade by 5%.
- Tests/presentations missed during unexcused absences cannot be repeated.
- If you miss a class it is your responsibility to catch up on everything that was covered in class.
- If you cannot attend class because you are sick, please go and see a doctor. S/he will issue a doctor’s note.
- Without a doctor’s note your absence will count as an unexcused absence.

**CONTENT:**

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<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
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| 1 | **What's the problem?**  "Forests" and "climate" as policy problems | Readings:  
  - Skjærseth 1992  
  - May 2005  
  - Downie 2015 |
| 2 | **What is policy analysis?**  Main concepts and analytical approaches | Readings:  
  - Bernhardt 2015, pp. 108-123  
  - Official websites of relevant policy actors in the EU |
### Week 1

#### 3
**What can we do?**  
The choice of policy instruments

**Readings:**  
- Böcher 2012  
- Agrawala/Fankhauser 2008  
- Conceição et al. 2015

#### 4
**Germany:**  
Forest decline and climate policy

**Readings:**  
- Opitz 1985  
- Wurzel 2002

**Tentative:** Visit of an exhibition about "Waldsterben"

#### 5
**What can we possibly know?**  
The role of science

**Readings:**  
- Sarewitz/Pielke 2007  
- Committee to review the IPCC 2010  
- Bernhardt 2015, pp. 262-276

### Week 2

#### 1
**What can happen?**  
Natural disasters and climate migration

**Readings:**  
- Wagner 2007  
- Zahariadis 2016  
- IOM (no date)

#### 2
**Frameworks and COPs**  
Global climate policy since 1992

**Readings:**  
- Tulkens 2016  
- Fischer et al. 2016

#### 3
**Midterm**

**Readings:**  
- Winkel/Derks 2016

#### 4
**The European Union**  
Its forests, climate and politics

**Readings:**  
- Proelss 2016  
- www.euractive.com search

#### 5
**TRIP to the European Parliament in Strasbourg**

### Week 3

#### 1
**Forests and climate change**  
Interplay in nature and politics

**Readings:**  
- Duinker 1990  
- Winkel et al. 2011  
- Storch/Winkel 2013

#### 2
**Woody biomass**  
The debate about energy and the material use of wood

**Readings:**  
- Rhodius et al. 2014  
- Mittlefehldt 2016
### REQUIRED READINGS:

- Committee to Review the IPCC (2010): Climate change assessments. Review of the processes and procedures of the IPCC. Executive Summary, 5 p. [http://reviewipcc.interacademycouncil.net/report.html](http://reviewipcc.interacademycouncil.net/report.html)

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For the field trips come prepared with proper clothing in case of rain and cool temperatures. You will receive advance notice if you need to bring lunch.
project “CO mpeting uses of fOrest Land”. Available online: http://www.eficent.efi.int/files/attachments.eficent/projects/1_cool_policy_brief_digital_version.pdf