Global Climate Governance

Yale Summer Sessions 2021

*Professor Detlef F. Sprinz, Ph.D.*

**Purpose and Contents**

This seminar provides an overview of global climate governance, incl. overarching conceptual frameworks, a variety of empirical subdomains, interlinkages with other policy fields, and central challenges encountered in global climate governance. Using a portfolio approach to examinations, students will prepare a range of individual and group assignments throughout the semester.

**Logistics**

*Time & Location*: M, W: 9:00 am – 12:15 pm

*Contact Details:*
  - detlef.sprinz@yale.edu (include “GCG YSS 2021” in the subject line)
  - www.sprinz.org
  - Office Hours:  *by appointment*
Learning Goals

Knowledge
Students will:
- gain an overview of theoretical concepts and empirical domains of global climate governance and
- understand the strategic challenges in managing long-term climate policy challenges.

Skills
Students will undertake a range of assignments, both individually and in small groups. In particular, they will broaden their skills basis by
- introducing the class to two readings and serving as rapporteurs on two other readings
- defending or rejecting a central tenet of global climate governance, and
- responding to a central and hitherto unsolved global climate policy challenge.

Competences
Students will:
- apply a range of concepts and methods to generic global climate governance challenges,
- diagnose as well as propose remedies for long-term environmental climate challenges, and
- work individually as well as in groups on a diverse set of assignments.

Code of Conduct

All students are assumed to be familiar with and will abide by the rules of proper academic conduct as specified by Yale University and the Yale Summer Sessions. In your academic contributions, you must document all of your source material. If you take any text from somebody else, you must make it clear the text is being quoted and where the text comes from. You must also cite any sources from which you obtain numbers, ideas, or other material. If you have any questions about what does or does not constitute plagiarism, ask! Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be treated lightly. Fortunately, it is also easy to avoid and if you are the least bit careful about giving credit where credit is due you should not run into any problems. For helpful sources, please consult
→https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/using-sources and
→https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/writing/using-sources/understanding-and-avoiding-plagiarism. You are expected to undertake all your individual assignments independently. For group assignments, resulting products shall be authored exclusively by all group members (with individual components clearly marked).

Select students appear to have fallen in love with around-the-clock connectivity and social media. During our seminar sessions, I expect you to concentrate on this course.

All personal information that you encounter in conjunction with this course or on Canvas shall be exclusively used for course-related purposes.

If you have registered with the Resource Office on Disabilities (→https://sas.yale.edu/how-do-i-get-help-rod), please inform the instructor, via email, during the first week of classes.
In case observation of religious obligations interferes with academic deadlines, please notify the instructor well ahead of the deadline.

**Course Requirements and Grading**

Students are required to attend all classes (even on public holidays) and read the required readings before class so as to allow for informed discussions.

This course comprises a portfolio of assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral Participation throughout the course</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment #1: Memo &amp; oral presentation of one journal article, paper, or</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment #2: Memo &amp; oral presentation of one journal article, paper, or</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment #3: Parliamentary debate (individual)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment #4: Solutions to a Specific Global Climate Policy Challenge</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(group assignment - video, Q&amp;A, and paper)</td>
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</table>

### Course Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment or Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>07 June 2021</td>
<td>9:00-10:30am</td>
<td>Course Overview</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>07 June 2021</td>
<td>10:45am - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Core Terminology in Global Climate Governance</td>
<td>Sign-up for Assignment #1</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>09 June 2021</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:30am</td>
<td>Guest Lecture: Dr. Galina Churkina (Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research): Natural Science Foundations of Climate Change</td>
<td>Guest Lecture</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>09 June 2021</td>
<td>10:45am - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Climate Change as a Long-Term Policy Challenge I</td>
<td>Assignment #1 Assignment #4: Suggested Topics will be announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>14 June 2021</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:30am</td>
<td>Climate Change as a Long-Term Policy Challenge II</td>
<td>students will play an online (interactive) long-term policy game</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>14 June 2021</td>
<td>10:45am - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Global Climate Negotiations: History</td>
<td>Assignment #1 Assignment #4: Suggested Topics will be announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>16 June 2021</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:30am</td>
<td>Actors I: Countries</td>
<td>Assignment #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>16 June 2021</td>
<td>10:45am - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Mandatory Group Consultation Sessions with Instructor on Assignment #4 (Students not in consultation session meet to</td>
<td>Student Groups Prepare Outline on Assignment #4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>9 June 2021</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:30am</td>
<td>Actors II: Non-State Actors Potentially: Guest Lecture by Prof. Angel Hsu (Yale-NUS)</td>
<td>Assignment #1</td>
<td>Guest Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 June 2021</td>
<td>10:45am - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Compliance &amp; Implementation</td>
<td>Assignment #1</td>
<td>Sign-up for Assignment #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 June 2021</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:30am</td>
<td>Effective Climate Governance?</td>
<td>Assignment #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 June 2021</td>
<td>10:45am - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Compensation/Loss &amp; Damage</td>
<td>Assignment #2</td>
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<td>13 June 2021</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:30am</td>
<td>US Global Climate Policy: Current Developments</td>
<td>Assignment #2</td>
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<td>14 June 2021</td>
<td>10:45am - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Parliamentary Debate on Global Climate Policy</td>
<td>Assignment #3</td>
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<td>15 June 2021</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:30am</td>
<td>Modeling Global Climate Negotiations, Incl. Climate Clubs I</td>
<td>Assignment #2</td>
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<td>16 June 2021</td>
<td>10:45am - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Progress Reports on Assignment #4: Q&amp;A</td>
<td>Brief Student Presentations on Assignment #4 (ungraded)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 June 2021</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:30am</td>
<td>Modeling Global Climate Negotiations, Incl. Climate Clubs II</td>
<td>Assignment #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 June 2021</td>
<td>10:45am - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Guest Lecture by Wake Smith (Yale and Harvard Universities): Geoengineering</td>
<td>Guest Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 July 2021</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:30am</td>
<td>Solutions for Long-Term Climate Policy Challenges: Student Presentations and Q&amp;A, Part I</td>
<td>Assignment #4</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 July 2021</td>
<td>10:45am - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Solutions for Long-Term Climate Policy Challenges: Student Presentations and Q&amp;A, Part II</td>
<td>Assignment #4</td>
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**Textbook & Readings**


All other readings can be found on → *Canvas*. 
Assignments

All Assignments

Assignments will be posted to →Canvas well ahead of the deadline. Submission deadlines are indicated in the →Assignments.

When composing your individual or group papers, your emphasis is *not* on reviewing the material covered in the required readings; it is assumed that you (and all other course participants) have read it. Read the instructions carefully (!), build on the required readings, and innovate in a way not found in the required readings. Leave the reader with the impression that your ideas have been carefully chosen and could be expanded upon in a longer research paper, senior thesis, or bachelor thesis. Please note that keeping it short is the art of structuring one’s mind and concentrating on the main points rather than on peripheral considerations. It is more difficult to write a convincing short paper than a long paper!

All papers include your student ID number(s), assignment number (see overview), and word count on the first page. At a minimum, leave one inch margins from all four edges of letter-sized sheets. Footnotes shall be kept to a minimum. All text is 1.5-spaced, 11-12 point font. Paper length will be strictly enforced (the word count includes literally everything). Papers shall be submitted – in PDF format – via →Canvas by the due date and time (→Assignment). Extensions will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances, following written petition to the instructor/authorization by the Dean of Summer Session.

For proper citation, please consult →https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/using-sources.

In case of group assignments, all author ID numbers have to be listed, including a short description who contributed what.

In case you cannot submit assignments due to medical reasons, you must submit a medical doctor’s certificate to the Dean of Summer Session.

The allocation of individual students into groups is at the discretion of the instructor.

All Assignments will be posted to →Canvas and are outlined below.

Assignments #1 & #2: Introducing the Readings

Sign up for a specific reading via →Canvas Sign-Up Sheet for Assignment #1 and for Assignment #2. Please compose a max. 500 word paper reflecting on the central arguments of the reading, a critique thereof, and conclude with a lead question for the class. There is no need for a cover page. Submit the short paper no later than the day preceding presentation to the class, 2:00pm, to →Canvas.

Together with all other students presenting an assignment #1 or #2 for the same module, paper givers will offer a joint 5 minutes introduction to the topic of the module at large. Subsequently, we split into parallel breakout groups, led by the paper givers and the
discussion of each breakout group will be summarized by a rapporteur in the ensuing plenary. Assignment to breakout groups and to rapporteur status is random and at the discretion of the instructor. The instructor will visit the parallel breakout groups and subsequently will lead the concluding discussion in the plenary.

**Assignment #3: Parliamentary Debate**

Follow the UNFCCC negotiations and related side events by way of quality media. Prepare a short memo for a frontbench Parliamentary discussion (Canadian style) on the merits of, e.g., “Do global climate negotiations ‘prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system’?”

The discussion will be fact-based and be backed up by relevant academic knowledge. The Speaker (instructor) will maintain the peace of the House, enforce academic standards and procedural rules, and evaluates your scholastic contribution. Every student will prepare a 500 word memo of his or her position and submit it to the instructor and share it with her or his side of the front bench. Each student is entitled to a 2-3 minute statement alternating across the pro and the con front benches, plus rebuttals by the opposite side of the bench.

Assignment to the two groups taking the pro and the con position is at the discretion of the instructor.

**Assignment #4: Solutions for Long-Term Climate Policy Challenges: Video, Presentation, Q&A, Paper**

A range of indicative enduring challenges will be made available during Module 4, yet you will be free to propose any comparable long-term climate policy challenge you wish to pursue. Please submit a (max.) one-page proposal (ungraded) by 15 June 2021 and book (as a group) a slot for consultation during Module 8 on 16 June 2021 (first come, first served). Module 16 will serve as an (ungraded) intermediate stocktake.

In advance of the presentation as well as Q&A of your preliminary final group paper on Day 10, please produce a ca. 5-10 minute group video which presents your suggested solution(s) and submit the full paper 09 July 2021, noon, to →Canvas.
Module 1: Course Overview

Course Overview

Module 2: Core Terminology in Global Climate Governance


Module 3: Guest Lecture by Dr. Galina Churkina (Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research): The Science of Climate Change


Module 4: Climate Change as a Long-Term Policy Challenge I

Dorsch, Marcel J., and Christian Flachsland 2017. A Polycentric Approach to Global Climate Governance. Global Environmental Politics, 17(2), 45-64. doi:10.1162/GLEP_a_00400

Module 5: Climate Change as a Long-Term Policy Challenge II

Students will play an online (interactive) long-term policy game in class.

Module 6: Global Climate Negotiations: History

Watch the videos:
Christina Figueres: The Inside Story of the Paris Climate Agreement
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIA_1xQc7x8

Obama on ‘Terrifying’ Threat of Climate Change,

Module 7: Actors I: Countries


Module 8: Mandatory Group Consultation Sessions with Instructor on Assignment #4

Students discuss extended outlines of Assignment #4 with the instructor.

Module 9: Actors II: Non-State Actors


Module 10: Compliance & Implementation


Module 11: Effective Climate Governance?


Module 12: Compensation/Loss & Damage


Swiss Re. 2014. *sigma Natural Catastrophes And Man-Made Disasters in 2013: Large Losses From Floods and Hail; Haiyan Hits the Philippines*, Zurich, Swiss Re, 15-27

Check http://natcatSERVICE.munichre.com for interactive analysis.

Module 13: US Global Climate Policy: Current Developments


Statement by the Current US Administration (t.b.d.)

**Module 14: Parliamentary Debate on Global Climate Policy Modeling Global Climate Negotiations**

In-Class Debate (see Assignment #3).

**Module 15: Modeling Global Climate Negotiations, Incl. Climate Clubs I**


**Module 16: Progress Reports on Assignment #4: Q&A**

Brief Student Presentations on Assignment #4, followed by Q&A.

**Module 17: Modeling Global Climate Negotiations, Incl. Climate Clubs II**


Module 18: Guest Lecture by Wake Smith (Lecturer in Yale College and Senior Fellow, Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government, Harvard Kennedy School): Geoengineering


Modules 19 & 20: Solutions for Long-Term Climate Policy Challenges

Videos, Student Presentations, Q&A, and Paper Submission.