

**The Challenge of Climate Change:  
Strategies of the European Union, the United States and China**  
(Le Défi du Changement Climatique : Stratégies de l'Union européenne, les États-Unis, la Chine)

**Melanie MEUNIER**

**Course type:** online course – 18 hours – 5 ECTS

**Language of instruction:** English

### **Course description and objectives**

This course will examine the state of the world in terms of climate change and focus on the response of three world leaders: the European Union, the United States and China. First, we will survey the current context and trends: temperature rise, sea level rise, glacier melt, biodiversity, human population and consumption of natural resources. Then, we will explore and compare the records (greenhouse gas emissions, resource consumption, etc.), goals (reduce ecological footprint), and progress of the three leaders, as well as the effectiveness of a selection of international agreements (UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement).

Fundamental questions will be debated in class, such as: Is it still possible to reverse climate change or has the point of no return been passed, requiring forced adaptation to new circumstances? Is the goal of keeping global temperature increase to 2°C possible without a paradigm shift? What level of action - individual (lifestyle), nation-state, international - offers the greatest chance of mitigating the effects of climate change? Given the shortcomings of the most powerful governments (and societies) in addressing the crisis, what solutions should be pursued? Will the recent experience of massive confinement be the catalyst for real progress after decades of disappointing results in emissions reduction strategies?

Interactive activities (debates, presentations, talk shows, mock national or international conferences) will take place during most sessions, which will last between one and two hours. Students will be asked to do some research and explore solutions to specific cases, and encouraged to share their ideas and debate the merits of different approaches.

### **Assessment**

Continuous assessment on the basis of:

60% -role play performance (talk show, international negotiation, or mock trial

-participation in class exercises and discussion

40% -final written: personal-thought essay position supported by references to course material (answer one of 2 questions)

### **Select Bibliography**

Most references will be available on the Internet or uploaded to Moodle. Additional resources will be indicated.

-European Commission climate website: Implementation in EU countries: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/energy-climate-change-environment/implementation-eu-countries\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/energy-climate-change-environment/implementation-eu-countries_en)

-European Green Deal: <https://www.euractiv.com/sections/climate-strategy-2050/>

-Galvin, Ray, Noel Healy, "The Green New Deal in the United States: What it is and how to pay for it," *Energy Research and Social Science*, Vol. 67, April 2020: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2020.101529>

-Hausknot, Daniel, The environmental state and the glass ceiling of transformation, *Environmental Politics*, 29:1, 17-37, 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1080/09644016.2019.1680062>

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- Kalantzos, Sophia, *The EU, US and China Tackling Climate Change*, Routledge, 2017
- Klein, Naomi, *On Fire: the (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal*, 2019; *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs The Climate*, 2015; *The Shock Doctrine*, 2007
- Kopra, Sanna, *China and Great Power Responsibility for Climate Change*, Routledge, 2018: <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/9781315151113>
- Mann, Michael E., *The New Climate War*, Hachette Book Group, New York, 2021
- Morchain, Daniel, "Rethinking the framing of climate change adaptation," in *A Critical Approach to Climate Adaptation*, Klepp, S., Chavez-Rodriguez, L., Routledge, 2018: <https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/27355>
- Percival, Robert V., "China's 'Green Leap Forward' Toward Global Environmental Leadership," *Vermont Journal of Environmental Law*, 2011: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1955928>
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- Rosenbaum, Walter, *Environmental Politics and Policy*, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, CQ Press, 2017
- Selby, Jan, "The Trump Presidency, Climate Change, and the Prospect of a Disorderly Energy Transition," *Sussex Research Online*, 2017: <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk>
- Tucker, Todd, *The Green New Deal: A Ten-Year Window to Reshape International Economic Law?*, 2019: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3411142>
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- Wang, Alex, "Climate Change Policy and Law in China," *Oxford Handbook of International Climate Change Law*, Cinnamon P. Carlarne, Kevin R. Gray, and Richard Tarasofsky, eds., Oxford Univ. Press, 2016: [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2498242](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2498242)