Green Germany: World Leader in Environmental Policy
GERMAN 364/HISTORY 250/ENERGY 364/ENVIRON 366

MW 4:40-5:55
Instructor: Dr. Kristen Dolan
Office Hours Thursdays 1:00-3:00 (or by appointment), Old Chem 116G

Course Overview

What does it mean to be a global leader in implementing "green" technologies and policies? In the wake of the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi reactor accident, the German government significantly reduced the country’s reliance on nuclear energy and determined a road map for further shutdowns. Importantly, however, environmental issues had long since been politically significant in Germany—and the path toward the Energiewende, or transition to renewable energy, had in many ways already been set. This course will begin with an introduction to the history of German environmental politics in the Twentieth Century as well as to Germans’ conceptions of nature and the environment. The heart of the course will include case studies focusing on key environmental issues and debates. Along the way, we will consider Green Germany from a European and global perspective, not only to better understand how its policies compare to those of other countries, but to also critically examine Germany’s image as a world leader in environmental policy.

Readings

Please complete readings by the beginning of class on the days indicated. You should also bring copies of the readings and/or your notes to class with you on the day(s) assigned. With the exception of the reading for January 12 (Osha Gray Davidson’s Clean Break: The Story of Germany’s Energy Transformation and what Americans can Learn from It), our readings will be available in Sakai or via the Duke Library website.

Film

There is one required film for the course, An Inconvenient Truth: A Global Warning (2006), which we will discuss in class on April 8.

Requirements and Grading

Reading Responses: During the semester, you will write two (2-3 pg.) reading responses. From among three provided options, you may respond to whichever two prompts you would like.
Quizzes: Quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class on January 28 and March 18.

Midterm: The midterm exam, which will be administered in class on March 4, will ask you to draw on materials presented in lectures and readings.

Final Project: More detailed instructions and guidelines for the final project (due April 22) will be posted in Sakai. You will work on your project throughout the semester and meet with me to discuss your ideas partway through the course. The final version of your project should be a 10-page paper. Potential topics include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- The impacts of nuclear accidents such as those at Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and/or Fukushima Daiichi on German/European energy policy
- German/European response to environmental disasters in comparative perspective (for example response to 2002 Elbe floods and flooding after Hurricane Katrina or the 2006 Pacific tsunami)
- Industry and environmental protection in comparative perspective (for example, the automobile industry in Germany and Japan)
- Energy strategies in Germany and France, or in Europe and the US
- German and American approaches to UN/international climate negotiations

To facilitate our discussion of your project ideas during individual meetings, you will turn in a Preliminary Statement of Interest on February 11.

Project Prospectus: A more detailed 2-page prospectus of your project will be due on April 1.

Participation: In addition to lectures designed to underscore the main themes of the course, this class will include seminar-style discussion, group-based activities, and periodic forum posts in Sakai. Your participation grade will be based on your overall attendance as well as the consistency of your contributions to our discussions and in-class activities. To contribute, you must be present in class and have read the assigned materials. Missing more than one class for any unexcused reason will result in a deduction from your final participation grade.

Assignments will carry the following weight in the overall course grade:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Responses</td>
<td>20% (2 @ 10% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10% (2 @ 5% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Prospectus</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
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Policies and Guidelines

Course Website: The primary means of communication and distribution of information for this class will be through our course website on Sakai. You should therefore check the site regularly for updates, assignments, and paper/exam guides. If you are having difficulty accessing the site, please let me know immediately.
**Classroom Behavior:** Laptop computers are welcome in the classroom, but should be used in support of the course. I encourage you to use them to take notes during lectures, but ask that you put them away during discussions. Please turn off your cell phones prior to the start of class.

**Academic Honesty/Plagiarism:** All students are expected to familiarize themselves with Duke’s policy on academic honesty. For guidelines on how to cite a source properly, among other useful information, see [http://library.duke.edu/research/plagiarism/](http://library.duke.edu/research/plagiarism/).

**Audit Policy:** To receive “AD” credit for this course, you will need to attend at least two-thirds of the scheduled class sessions, to include at least one in the last two weeks of the semester. You should also complete assigned readings in order to actively participate in class discussions.

**Schedule of Classes**

**January 7:** Overview of the course: Why Study “Green Germany”?

**January 12:** Discussion – Green Germany Today – A Narrative of Success?
Read: Osha Gray Davidson, *Clean Break: The Story of Germany’s Energy Transformation and What Americans Can Learn from It*

**January 14:** The Lure of Progress/Nature Protection in its Emergent Stages
Read: Frank Uekötter, *The Greenest Nation? A New History of German Environmentalism* (excerpts)

**January 19:** No Class (Martin Luther King Day)

**January 21:** Discussion - “Taming” Europe’s Waterways – the Making of the Modern Rhine
Read: Marc Cioc, *The Rhine: An Eco-Biography, 1815-2000* (excerpts)

**January 26:** Duke Library Resources/Overview of Project Assignment

**January 28:** Discussion – Society & Nature at the Turn of the Century

**February 2:** Conservation and Conquest during the Nazi Period

**February 4:** Discussion – The Reich Nature Protection Law
FROM POSTWAR TO THE RISE OF ENVIRONMENTALISM

February 9: Occupation & Division: Nature Protection in the “Two Germanys”
Read: Sandra Chaney, “Protecting Nature in a Divided Nation”

February 11: Discussion – The Advent of Nuclear Energy
Preliminary Statement of Interest due (via Sakai Dropbox) by 8 p.m.

February 16: The “Economic Miracle” – Production vs Pollution during the Postwar Boom
Read: Frank Uekötter, The Age of Smoke (excerpts)

February 18: Discussion – West German Activism at the Local Level
Read: Sandra Chaney, Nature of the Miracle Years (excerpts)

February 23: The Rise of Environmentalism & Environmental Consciousness
Read: Michael Bess, The Light Green Society (excerpts) & Rachel Carson, Silent Spring (excerpts)

February 25: Individual meetings to discuss final papers (continue on Feb 26 as needed)

March 2: Discussion – Nuclear Energy, Public Engagement, and the Roots of Green Politics

March 4: Midterm Exam

March 9/11: No Class – Spring Recess (begins Friday, March 6 at 7 pm)

March 16: Umweltschutz: West German environmental protection in the 1970s & 1980s
Meadows et. al., The Limits to Growth: A Report for the Club of Rome’s Project on the Predicament of Mankind (excerpts)

March 18: Discussion – The Rise of Environmentalism in East Germany
Read: Merill E. Jones, “Origins of the East German Environmental Movement”

GREEN GERMANY IN THE WORLD TODAY

March 23: Post-unification Challenges & Opportunities: the 1990s & Beyond
Read: Astrid Eckert, “No Man’s Landscapes: The Iron Curtain Stopped Humans from Crossing Political Borders for Over Four Decades. In their Stead, an Ecosystem all its Own” & Blackbourn, The Conquest of Nature (excerpts)
March 25: Discussion – Negotiating Environmental Concerns at the Municipal Level
   Read: Dale Madearis and Wulf Daseking, “Freiburg, Germany: Germany’s Eco-Capital;” & Novy and Peters, “Railway Station Mega-Projects as Public Controversies: The Case of Stuttgart 21”

March 30: Workshop projects in class (for this class, bring paper title, draft intro with thesis statement underlined, working bibliography)

April 1: Discussion – Environmentalism as Part of German National Identity
   2-page project prospectus due (via Sakai Dropbox) by 8 pm.

April 6: Environmental Policy within the European Framework
   Read: Jan-Henrik Meyer, “Challenging the Atomic Community: The European Environmental Bureau and the Europeanization of Environmental Protest”

April 8: Discussion – The United Nations Climate Change Regime: Divergent Perspectives
   Watch: An Inconvenient Truth: A Global Warning
   Read: Daniel Bodansky, “A Tale of Two Architectures: The Once and Future U.N. Climate Change Regime”

April 13: “Atomkraft? Nein Danke!” The Fukushima Daiichi Accident and Its Repercussions
   Read: Selected Articles

April 15: Discussion: Is the Energiewende Working?
   Read: Selected Articles

April 20: Germany and China: Alternative Paths to our Environmental Future?
   Read: Tao Zhengua and Rüdiger Wolfrum, Implementing International Environmental Law in Germany and China (excerpts)

April 22: Wrap up/Final Discussion (Final Project Due – hardcopy in class)