

Green Germany: World Leader in Environmental Policy

GERMAN 364/HISTORY 250/ENERGY 364/ENVIRON 366

Instructor: Dr. Kristen Dolan

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If you have questions or concerns at any point during the semester, please do not hesitate to come by during office hours (days/times posted in Sakai) or to contact me via e-mail.

Course Overview

What does it mean to be a global leader in implementing "green" technologies and policies? When and why did efforts to care for the environment become such an integral facet of daily life in Germany? This course offers a detailed examination of a country that has, in several respects, come to be regarded as exemplary in its pursuit of sustainability. In addition to analyzing past and current policies on energy, agriculture and pollution control, we will study Germans' conceptions of nature, key developments leading to the rise of environmental awareness, and the roots of green politics. We'll conclude the semester by discussing current issues, in particular, the country's ongoing efforts to increase reliance on renewable energy while also phasing out nuclear power. In the wake of the Fukushima Daiichi accident in 2011, the government not only significantly reduced Germany's operational reactors, but also determined a road map for further shut downs. Importantly, this occurred in a broader context in which environmental issues had long since been politically significant—and the path toward the "*Energiewende*," or transition to renewable energy—had in many ways already been set.

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.

The readings for January 15th (Osha Gray Davidson's *Clean Break: The Story of Germany's Energy Transformation and what Americans can Learn from It*) and April 16th (Justin Gerdes' *Quitting Carbon: How Denmark is Leading the Clean Energy Transition and Winning the Race to the Low Carbon Future*) are electronic books available for purchase online. Frank Uekötter's *The Greenest Nation? A New History of German Environmentalism* is available through the Duke Bookstore as well as online booksellers.

Our other course materials will be available electronically and accessed either via Sakai or the Duke Library website (additional information on assignments and how to access these materials is posted in the "Calendar" area of our course Sakai site, under the applicable date).

Requirements and Grading

Critical Response Papers: During the semester, you will write two (3-4 page) response papers that draw on assigned materials to focus on a problem or question of interest to you (you may formulate your own question, or choose from among questions that I will provide). Particularly well-developed responses will place the work to which you are responding in the context of our other course materials and class discussions.

Quizzes: Early in the semester, you will take two short quizzes based on study materials posted in Sakai (they will consist of fill-in-the-blank, multiple-choice and/or short response questions).

Midterm: The midterm exam will consist of short response questions and/or an essay question that will ask you to draw on materials presented in lectures, readings and our class discussions.

Final Project: More detailed instructions and guidelines for the final project 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 10-12 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 (for example, the 1986 Sandoz Chemical Spill)
- Industry and environmental protection in comparative perspective (for example, the automobile industry in Germany and Japan)
- Energy/sustainability strategies at the local level (such as examination of selected German cities, or comparison of selected cities in Germany and elsewhere)
- Germany's approach to international climate negotiations

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 forum posts in Sakai

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

Participation	=10%
Response Papers	=30% (2 @ 15% each)
Quizzes	=10% (2 @ 5% each)
Midterm	=20%
Project Prospectus	= 5%
Final Project	=25%

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/>.

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

Jan 10: Introduction/Overview of the course

Jan 15: Germany's *Energiewende* – A Narrative of Success?
Read: Davidson, *Clean Break*

Jan 17: Nature Protection in its Emergent Stages
Read: Uekötter, 25-46

Jan 22: The Making of the "Modern Rhine"
Read: Cioc, *The Rhine: An Eco-Biography* (excerpts)

Jan 24: Society & Nature at the Turn of the Century
Read: Lekan, "A 'Noble Prospect'"

Jan 29: Duke Library Resources/Overview of Project Assignment

Jan 31: Conservation & Conquest during the Nazi Period
Read: Uekötter, 46-57 & primary documents (see Sakai)

Feb 5: Nature Protection & National Socialist Ideology
Read: Brüggemeier, Cioc & Zeller, *How Green were the Nazis?* (excerpt)

Feb 7: Occupation & Division: Postwar Developments in the Federal Republic of Germany
Read: Lekan & Zeller, *Germany's Nature* (excerpt) & Uekötter, 59-80

- Feb 12:** West German Preservation Efforts at the Local Level
Read: Selected Case Study
- Feb 14:** Occupation & Division: Postwar Developments in the German Democratic Republic
Read: Lekan & Zeller, *Germany's Nature* (excerpt); Selected Articles (see Sakai)
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- Feb 19:** The Rise of Environmentalism & Environmental Consciousness
Read: Bess, *The Light Green Society* (excerpts)
- Feb 21:** West German Environmental Protection in the 1970s
Read: Uekötter, 80-100; Selected Articles (see Sakai)
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- Feb 26:** Meetings to Discuss Final Projects
- Feb 28:** Nuclear Protest in France & West Germany
Read: Nelkin & Pollak, *The Atom Besieged* (excerpts)
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- Mar 5: Midterm Exam**
- Mar 7:** Oil Shocks, Acid Rain & the Chernobyl Disaster
Read: Uekötter, 113-138 & Selected Articles (see Sakai)
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- Mar 12/14: No Class – Spring Recess** (begins Friday, March 8 at 7 pm)
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- Mar 19:** From Postwar Boom to “Eco-Pioneering” Strategies?
Read: Selected Case Studies
- Mar 21:** The GDR’s Collapse, Reunification & the End of the Cold War
Read: Merrill E. Jones, “Origins of the East German Environmental Movement”
- Mar 26:** *After* the ‘Iron Curtain’: Post-Unification Challenges & Opportunities
Read: Selected Articles (see Sakai)
- Mar 28:** Workshop projects in class (for this class, bring paper title, draft intro with thesis statement underlined, working bibliography)
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- Apr 2:** Negotiating Environmental Concerns at the Municipal Level
Read: Timothy Beatley, *Green Cities of Europe* (excerpt)
- Apr 4:** The 1990s and Beyond
Read: Uekötter, 139-155; Selected Articles/Materials (see Sakai)
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- Apr 9:** The Fukushima Daiichi Accident and its Repercussions
Read: Wittneben, “The Impact of Fukushima”; Beveridge & Kern, “The *Energiewende* in Germany”

Apr 11: Recent Reactions & Reforms to Renewable Policy in Germany
Read: Selected Articles/Materials (see Sakai)

Apr 16: Germany's Energy Transition in a Comparative Context
Read: Gerdes' *Quitting Carbon*

Apr 18: The *Energiewende* Today
Read: Selected Articles/Materials (see Sakai)

Apr 23: Wrap up/Final Discussion
Final Project Due