

Course Overview

Term

May 10 – May 25 | This two-week course includes two online meetings with a lecture by Professor von Mering on Wednesday at noon. Each meeting is preceded by short activities, required readings, and a movie which will enrich the discussion to follow Professor von Mering's presentation. The course will remain open beyond the first two weeks so that you may review and/or continue to advance through readings or available films.

Faculty

Sabine von Mering, *Professor of German and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Director of the Center for German and European Studies, and affiliate faculty with the Environmental Studies Program*

Document Overview

This overview contains all relevant information about the course: its objectives and outcomes, the texts and other materials of instruction, and of modular topics, outcomes, assignments, and due dates. Consider this your roadmap for the course.

Course Description

Climate change is a human-made problem, but that means the solutions to this problem will also have to be human-made. Many people have long been working on this, especially in Europe, but also here in the United States. This course outlines initiatives, enterprises, policies, and creative projects aimed at solving the climate crisis. Learn about the goals of the Paris Agreement, and Germany's national *Energiewende* (energy transition) project. Examine case studies with proposed solutions to the climate crisis from across the European continent.

Certificate of Completion

If you complete all activities and participate in the online meetings, we will offer a certificate and digital badge for successful completion.

Time Commitment

In each module, you should expect to commit approximately 3 hours towards reading, viewing a documentary, and participating in two activities: interview a fellow alumnus and post a response to a prompt. You will set up the interview with your classmate at a mutually convenient time prior to each online meeting. There will be two scheduled hour-long online meetings with Professor von Mering.

By enrolling in this course, you are committing to participate, at the minimum, in the activities and in the online meeting.

Required Software and Technology

Google Docs or MS Word, or the equivalent.

High-speed internet access for online meetings

Headset or earbuds with microphone for online class participation

You will need to test your equipment prior to joining the first meeting.

Learning Objectives

- Explain the background behind differences between the European and the American approaches to the climate crisis.
- Assess the vast spectrum of solutions available to solve the climate crisis.
- Distinguish, evaluate, and appreciate measures that are currently being taken to solve the climate crisis, especially in Europe, but also elsewhere.

- Identify ways to get involved in your own local environment to help solve the climate crisis.

Online Course Content

This course will be conducted completely online using Brandeis' LATTE site, available at <http://latte.brandeis.edu>. The site contains the course syllabus, reading materials and videos, activity descriptions and relevant links, and instructions on how to join the online meetings which will be recorded. Access information to LATTE is emailed to enrolled students before the start of the course.

Module 1: Partner Interview about Climate Change

You and a partner will interview each other about your understanding of the climate crisis, what people and governments are doing, and what level of engagement you envision for yourselves. You will document your interview and turn it in. This will inform our discussion in the first online meeting, May 16.

Module 2: Partner Action Plan

Coordinate a time to meet with your partner from Module 1 and brainstorm how you envision action can be taken on climate change from the personal level to the local level to the national level, and at the international level. Think about all of the initiatives that you have learned about and how some of them could be realistically applied. Turn in a summary of your brainstorming by Tuesday, May 22.

Google +

You will be invited to join a private social media group where we can share our thoughts and explorations. This group will continue to be active after you have completed the course.

To begin participating in the course, review the Welcome Message and the materials found in Module 1.

Class Schedule

Module	Activities
1 May 10-May 16	Readings and Movie in LATTE
	Partner Interview about Climate Change, due May 15
	Post to Google + Community a response to prompt, due May 15
May 16, 12-1 p.m. (EST)	Online Meeting and discussion with Professor von Mering
2 May 17-May 25	Readings and Movie in LATTE
	Partner Action Plan, due May 22
	Post to Google + Community a response to prompt, due May 22
May 23, 12-1 p.m. (EST)	Online Meeting and discussion with Professor von Mering