



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

### 8,913: Climate Change Course and Model UNFCCC

ECTS credits: 5

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written work, Digital, Group work group grade (30%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Active participation, Analog, Individual work individual grade (20%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (30%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (20%)

Examination time: Term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,913.1.00 Climate Change Course and Model UNFCCC \(CEMS Exclusive Course\)](#) -- English -- [Vuichard Pascal](#) , [Müller Adrian](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

none

#### Learning objectives

Climate Change & Climate Policy: Students should gain an understanding of the science of climate change and its environmental impacts, on climate policy, mechanisms and the negotiation process under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Business strategy: Students should learn about strategic frameworks for assessing the impact of climate change on markets and customer demand. This knowledge is essential for developing corporate strategies that avoid the negative consequences of climate change and take advantage of business opportunities evolving from a changing market environment.

Interests of parties: Students should learn about the often diverging interests of parties involved in global climate policy negotiations, including governments, sector-specific industry associations, global companies, and environmental & humanitarian non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Connections: Participants should learn how corporate strategies and public policies are interlinked, both in terms of challenges and solutions. The knowledge should enable students in their later job to manage interdependencies and assess regulatory risks.

International cooperation: Through interaction with students from other countries, all participants should not only learn how to develop consensus solutions, but should also experience firsthand the international dimension of the climate change challenge.

Negotiation skills: All students should learn and apply the basic principles of the mutual gains approach to negotiation and gain a better understanding of bilateral and multilateral negotiation dynamics and become aware of their own role and emotionality in negotiations.



## Course content

About 170 students from 10 European CEMS schools meet (this year in Rotterdam) after several classes and an intense preparation for 2 days to simulate the United Nations climate change conference.

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues, affecting all of today's business related processes. The impact of climate change will change the international business environment dramatically. However, the business relevance of climate change is insufficiently understood by future decision makers in international management and society. The Climate Change Course and its "Model UNFCCC" is an innovative educational approach to close this knowledge gap. Its goal is to broaden students' understanding of climate change and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its impact on the future of business.

The course will be held simultaneously at 10 leading CEMS universities (HSG St. Gallen, ESADE Barcelona, University of Cologne, Corvinus University Budapest, Rotterdam School of Management, SSE Stockholm, Bocconi Milano, Warsaw School of Economics, UCD Dublin and Norwegian School of Economics Bergen). After roles have been assigned (government, industry and NGO representatives) and negotiation positions have been drafted, all students and lecturers meet for two days of hard work, fun, short nights and a unique learning experience for the Model UNFCCC.

## Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

### Module 1: Introduction to Climate Change and Climate Policy

- Fundamentals of Climate Change
- Climate Policy and the UNFCCC
- Options for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption

### Module 2: Business and Climate Change

- The Economics of Climate Change
- The Role of Business in Global Climate Policy
- Student Presentations

### Module 3: Preparation of the Negotiation Session

- Negotiation skill training incl. mock UNFCCC simulation
- Final preparation & feedback session

### Module 4: Negotiation Session

Interactive negotiations starting on the evening of May 7 with a short welcome event and followed by two days of negotiation on May 8 and 9, 2025 in Rotterdam (travel and accommodation costs have to be covered individually) with CEMS Students from 9 other universities.

## Course literature

Please find some impressions of previous CEMS Model UNFCCC editions below:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCGt49W5aMk&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCGt49W5aMk&feature=emb_logo) (HSG 2020)

[https://youtu.be/V9D3jOHL\\_6o](https://youtu.be/V9D3jOHL_6o) (ESADE 2018, Long Version)

<https://youtu.be/670BEJb2Sb8> (ESADE 2018, Short Version)

<https://youtu.be/gXGvLvaq0Tc> (HSG 2015)

## Additional course information

**CEMS Students:**



There are a total of 20 seats available in this course for CEMS students, which will be assigned by a special application process (no bidding system). To apply please send a short email to [cems@unisg.ch](mailto:cems@unisg.ch) until 5 February 2025 the latest.

## MIA Students:

There are a total of 5 seats available in this course for MIA students, which will be assigned by a special application process (no bidding system). To apply please send an email with a short motivation statement to [mia@unisg.ch](mailto:mia@unisg.ch) until 5 February 2025 the latest.

Please send your application as soon as possible as the course usually fills up quickly. Due to organizational reasons applications are binding (withdrawing from the course after the semester started will be unfair for other participants, who were not able to join as the course was full). Participants will be contacted after applying by email and notified about their participation. The course will be added to your bidding before the pre-round starts.

## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/4)

##### Examination modalities

Examination type	Written work
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Written work
Examination mode	Digital
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	Off Campus
Grading type	Group work group grade
Weighting	30%
Duration	--

##### Examination languages

Question language: English  
Answer language: English

##### Remark

Position Paper

##### Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

##### Supplementary aids

--

---

#### 2. Examination sub part (2/4)

##### Examination modalities

Examination type	Active participation
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Oral examination
Examination mode	Analog



Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Synchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	20%
Duration	--

### Examination languages

Question language: English  
Answer language: English

### Remark

Active participation during the course

### Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

### Supplementary aids

--

---

## 3. Examination sub part (3/4)

### Examination modalities

Examination type	Presentation
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Oral examination
Examination mode	Analog
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Group work group grade
Weighting	30%
Duration	--

### Examination languages

Question language: English  
Answer language: English

### Remark

Background Presentation

### Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

### Supplementary aids

--

---

## 4. Examination sub part (4/4)



## Examination modalities

Examination type	Written work
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Written work
Examination mode	Digital
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	Off Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	20%
Duration	--

## Examination languages

Question language: English  
Answer language: English

## Remark

Reflection Paper after the Roleplay

## Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

## Supplementary aids

--

---

## Examination content

### Assignment I: Background Presentation (team)

As a team, you will research the background of your parties (countries or organizations). Essentially, this background research will enable you to determine your party's interests and likely negotiating positions or tactics. It will also enable other parties to better understand where your interests lie.

Specifications: The presentation should be 15 minutes, plus 5 minutes for discussion.

### Assignment II: Position Paper (team)

Based on the research you did to create your background presentation, and the presentations of other negotiating teams, determine a succinct set of positions on each agenda item for the negotiation. These should adequately and realistically represent your party's interests - taking into account government stances, industry pressure, and civil society and/or public opinion. Your negotiating positions may be conditional on the actions of other parties, if you believe that is a realistic course of action. Your position paper should be written as a team, and submitted electronically. We provide detailed and individual feedback on this paper. Please note that the position paper is due quite soon after your background presentation, and plan your time accordingly. The paper is short, but its contents are very important. They will strongly influence your team's strategy throughout the two-day negotiation.

Length: 2-4 pages (per group)

### Assignment III: Reflection Paper (individual)

Following the two-day negotiation you will write individual papers describing your insights from the exercise and describing what you learned. Reflecting on your learning experience will push you to actively reflect on your changes in thinking throughout the CEMS seminar. This exercise is designed to promote and reinforce your learning.

Length: 3 pages



## Active participation

### Examination relevant literature

IPCC Sixth Assessment Report. [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)

UNFCCC: <https://unfccc.int/>

Stern Report on the Economics of Climate Change, Executive summary:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/30\\_10\\_06\\_exec\\_sum.pdf](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/30_10_06_exec_sum.pdf)

### Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 13 (Monday, 25 March 2025) are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 23 January 2025);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 17 March 2025);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 14 (Monday, 31 March 2025);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before ending with de-registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 07 April 2025).