



CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course Name:	European Environmental Studies
Course Number:	ENVI 3001 PRAG
Programs offering course:	CES, CNMJ
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Fall 2019

Course Description

The course, presents various aspects of the relationship between human society and the natural environment from a social sciences viewpoint. Global, European, and Czech issues are covered in the course and insight into some branches of social sciences focused on the human-environment relationship, like environmental sociology, environmental philosophy, ecological economics, etc. is offered. The core of the course is focused on the current environmental issues, such political and social aspects of environmental protection (both Czech and global cases); global environmental challenges (climate change, energy and resource demand, positive and negative aspects of development) and practical examples of Czech environmental problems and Czech landscape as a unique place of long-term human cultivation of nature. The interconnection of social, economic, and ethical context of the environmental issues is stressed throughout the course.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- analyze the complexity of the human-environment relationship;
- assess the specifics of European and Czech environmental problems and discourse;
- critically discuss the problems of global environmental issues.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Methods of Instruction

Lectures with PowerPoint presentations and class debates are the basic methods of instruction. Students' presentations, group work, and quiz games also appear in the course, as well as short videos. Additionally, there will be one excursion (outclass), one field trip, and possibly also one guest lecture during the semester.



Assessment and Final Grade

Active class participation 30 %

Writings, all together 27 %

Presentation 8 %

Midterm test 15 %

Final test 20%

Course Requirements

Active Class Participation

See the CIEE Prague Class Participation Policy below

CIEE Prague Class Participation Policy

Assessment of students' participation in class is an inherent component of the course grade. Participation is valued as **meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom**, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Students are required to actively, meaningfully and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions and all types of in-class activities throughout the duration of the class. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared, as directed, in advance of each class session. This includes valued or informed engagement in, for example, small group discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Students are responsible for following the course content and are expected to ask clarification questions if they cannot follow the instructor's or other students' line of thought or argumentation.

The use of electronic devices is only allowed for computer-based in-class tests, assignments and other tasks specifically assigned by the course instructor. Students are expected to take notes by hand unless the student is entitled to the use of computer due to his/her academic accommodations. In such cases the student is required to submit an official letter issued by his/her home institution specifying the extent of academic accommodations.

Class participation also includes students' active participation in Canvas discussions and other additional tasks related to the course content as specified by the instructor.

Students will receive a partial participation grade every three weeks.

Writing 1: Most field trip reflection

Reflection paper on Most trip. Length 700–900 words, further instructions will be explained in the beginning of the semester. Paper should include both personal experience and information from other sources than the excursion/trip. Grade will reflect: a) whether the instructions were followed; b) overall quality of argument and factual errors; c) quality of the paper compared to other students.



Midterm test

Test consisting of 10–20 open tasks. Study guide will be provided in advance.

Writing 2: COP 21 Paris essay

Essay on Rio+20 or COP21 environmental conferences and their outcomes. Length 700–900 words, detailed instructions will be given. Grade will reflect: a) whether the instructions were followed; b) overall quality of argumentation and factual errors; c) quality of the paper compared to the works of other students.

Writing 3: Reflection paper on Kenneth Boulding's text

Essay reacting to Boulding's text "The Economics of the Coming Spaceship Earth" (1966). Length 600–800 words, further instructions will be given. Grade will reflect: a) whether the instructions were followed; b) overall quality of argument and factual errors; c) quality of the paper compared to the works of other students.

Instead of reflection on Boulding's paper, reflection essay on the guest lecture (if appropriate) may be the topic of Writing 3 assignment. The guest lecture is not included in the Weekly Schedule, due to unknown date and unknown guest speakers.

Students' presentation

Each student will have one approx. 10–15 minutes presentation (in pairs or individually) on the topic offered by the professor. Student will know the topic of presentation a week beforehand. Further instructions will be explained. Grade will reflect: a) whether the instructions were followed; b) overall quality of argument and factual errors.

Final test

Test consisting of 15–25 open tasks. Study guide will be provided in advance.

Answers to the questions on readings

Some questions are usually given in advance along with the class readings and students should answer these through Canvas online system. These brief answers are graded and the grades make part of the Active participation (together with submitting and preparing of non-graded assignments).

Other important information

Computers are not allowed in the class (if not needed for any online class work), not even for taking notes. The only exception could be special needs of students; these will be discussed individually with Academic Director.

Late submissions of work (writings, answers to reading, other homework) are not accepted. All work should be submitted through Canvas system. If you face any technical problems, submit the



work by email and immediately inform me about problems with Canvas system. The system checks activity of all users and CIEE staff is able to see whether there were some technical problems or whether the users were logged in or not.

Canvas email (Inbox) is preferred way of communication. If there are technical problems, use my email.

CIEE Prague Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and **all absences are treated equally regardless of reason** for any affected CIEE course. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursions or events, as well as Internship.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

Missing classes will lead to the following penalties:

90-minute semester classes:

<i>Number of 90-minute classes</i>	<i>Equivalent percentage of the total course hours missed</i>	<i>Minimum penalty</i>
one to two 90-minute classes	up to 10%	no penalty
three 90-minute classes	10.1–15%	reduction of the final grade by 3%
four 90-minute classes	15.1–17%	reduction of the final grade by 5%; written warning
five 90-minute classes	17.1–20%	reduction of the final grade by 7%; written warning
six and more 90-minute classes	more than 20%	automatic course failure and possible expulsion

180-minute semester classes:

<i>Number of 180-minute classes</i>	<i>Equivalent percentage of the total course hours missed</i>	<i>Minimum penalty</i>
one 180-minute class	up to 10%	no penalty
two 180-minute classes	10.1–20%	reduction of the final grade by 5%; written warning
three and more 180-minute classes	more than 20%	automatic course failure and possible expulsion



Persistent absenteeism (students approaching 20% of the total course hours missed, or violating the attendance policy in more than one class) will result in a written warning, a notification to the student's home school, and possibly a dismissal from the program.

Missing more than 20% of the total class hours will lead to a course failure, and potential program dismissal. This is a CIEE rule that applies to all CIEE courses and is in line with the Participant Contract that each CIEE student signs before arriving on-site.

Late arrival to class will be considered a partial (up to 15 minutes late) or full (15 or more minutes late) absence. **Three partial absences due to late arrivals will be regarded as one full class absence.**

Students must notify their professor and Program Coordinators (PC) beforehand if they are going to miss class for any reason and are responsible for any material covered in class in their absence.

If missing a class during which a test, exam, the student's presentation or other graded class assignments are administered, **make-up assignment will only be allowed in approved circumstances**, such as serious medical issues. In this case, the student must submit a local doctor's note within 24 hours of his/her absence to the PC, who will decide whether the student qualifies for a make-up assignment. Doctor's notes may be submitted via e-mail or phone (a scan or a photograph are acceptable), however **the student must ensure that the note is delivered to the PC.**

Should a truly **extraordinary situation** arise, the student must contact the PC immediately concerning permission for a make-up assignment. Make-up assignments are not granted automatically! The PC decides the course of action for all absence cases that are not straightforward. **Always contact the PC with any inquiry about potential absence(s) and the nature thereof.**

Personal travel (including flight delays and cancelled flights), handling passport and other document replacements, interviews, volunteering and other similar situations are not considered justifiable reasons for missing class or getting permission for make-up assignments.

For class conflicts (irregularities in the class schedule, including field trips, make-up classes and other instances), **always contact the Academic Assistant** to decide the appropriate course of action.

Course attendance is recorded on individual Canvas Course Sites. **Students are responsible for checking their attendance regularly to ensure the correctness of the records.** In case of discrepancies, students are required to contact the Academic Assistant **within one week of the discrepancy date** to have it corrected. Later claims **will not** be considered.



CIEE staff does not directly manage absences at FAMU and ECES, but they have similar attendance policies and attendance is monitored there. Grade penalties may result from excessive absences.

CIEE Academic Honesty Policy

CIEE subscribes to standard U.S. norms requiring that students exhibit the highest standards regarding academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism in any course assignment or exam will not be tolerated and may result in a student failing the course or being expelled from the program. Standards of honesty and norms governing originality of work differ significantly from country to country. We expect students to adhere to both the American norms and the local norms, and in the case of conflict between the two, the more stringent of the two will preside. Three important principles are considered when defining and demanding academic honesty. These are related to the fundamental tenet that one should not present the work of another person as one's own.

The first principle is that final examinations, quizzes and other tests must be done without assistance from another person, without looking at or otherwise consulting the work of another person, and without access to notes, books, or other pertinent information (unless the professor has explicitly announced that a particular test is to be taken on an “open book” basis).

The second principle applies specifically to course work: the same written paper may not be submitted in two classes. Nor may a paper for which you have already received credit at your home institution be submitted to satisfy a paper requirement while studying overseas.

The third principle is that any use of the work of another person must be documented in any written papers, oral presentations, or other assignments carried out in connection with a course. This usually is done when quoting directly from another's work or including information told to you by another person. The general rule is that if you have to look something up, or if you learned it recently either by reading or hearing something, you have to document it.

The penalty ranges from an F grade on the assignment, failure in the course to dismissal from the program. The Academic Director is consulted and involved in decision making in every case of a possible violation of academic honesty.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1	Introduction to class and theory of human-environment study
	Presentation of the basic information on selected branches of social sciences (human ecology, cultural ecology, social ecology, environmental sociology) and on the logic of social science understanding to human-environment relationship.



- Week 2 Discussion of selected Czech and global environmental problems.
Czech landscape as a place for human-nature interaction
- History of Czech landscape, main changes of landscape, agriculture and society from Neolithic era to 19th century. Era between WWI and WWI, expulsions of Germans, communist era, market economy, nature conservation, landscape perception.
- Reading: Naughton 2001
Reading: Bičík, Jeleček and Štěpánek 2001, 65-73. (Send answers to the questions given.)
- Week 3 Czech environmental problems – selected case studies
- Presentation and discussions of most important Czech environmental issues (brown coal mining, air pollution, carbon emissions, waste management, landscape transportation, soil erosion, energy production,...)
- Week 4 Czech environmental movement and environmental policy
- Brief history of Czech environmental movement and important milestones of NGO-government relationship, including selected points of environmental policy. Comparison to other EU countries.
- Reading: Fagin 2000, 139-156. (Send answers to the questions given.)
- Course Excursion to Most
Mandatory trip to Northwest Bohemian brown coal mining area (Most, Horní Jiřetín and chateau Jezeří). Glassheim (2006) is recommended reading for the trip.
- Week 5 Global environmental policy
- Important dates of environmental movement and sustainable development (Rachel Carson, Limits to Growth, Our Common Future, Rio de Janeiro Summit, Kyoto 1997, Copenhagen 2009, Johannesburg 2002, Green growth concept, Rio+20)
- Reading: United Nations 1987 (Send answers to the questions given.)



Week 6
Midterm Exam
Period

First meeting - Midterm test

Second meeting - Selected trends in developed and developing countries

Examples of environmental and social problems, ethical consequences, etc.

Possible reading: European Environmental Agency 2011 (Send answers to the questions given.)

Week 7
Midterm Exam
Period

Climate change - nature and society

Causes and consequences of climate change, natural aspects, political agreements, EU specifics, Kyoto protocol), role of individual in climate change, household carbon footprint, possibilities and limits of behavioral change.

Possible discussion of the personal students' carbon footprints.

Reading: Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change 2014. (Send answers to the questions given.)

Week 8

Climate change and media and climate change skepticism

Presentation of climate change in media, specifics of journalism, problem of balance, impact of media on individuals.

Neo-liberal criticism of climate change discourse, climate change denial, Julian Simon, Björn Lomborg, Václav Klaus, free-market environmentalism

Reading (two out these three texts): Klaus2005, 46-48.
Klaus2010.

Simon 1995, 11. (Send answers to the questions given.)

Week 9

Measuring the progress

Gross Domestic Product and alternative economic indicators of development (Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare, Genuine Progress Index). Human Development Index and OECD index.

Group work – preparation of your own development index



Reading: Max-Neef 1995, 115-118. (Send answers to the questions given.)

Week 10

Environmental impact of human activities and value of nature

Ecological footprint and its measurement. Concept of ecosystem services, financial value of nature, environmental and ecological economics. Each student will calculate his/her ecological footprint for the class discussion.

Reading: Ewing Moore, Goldfinger, Oursler, Reed and Wackernagel 2010, , 5-14. (Send answers to the questions given.)

Week 11

Environmental philosophy
Selected names and issues of environmental philosophy and ethics

Reading: TBA. (Send answers to the questions given.)

Backlogs
Any backlogs, review for final test, etc.

Week 12

Greenpeace excursion (outclass)

Excursion to the Czech Greenpeace office, presentation of their work (including ongoing Czech and global campaigns), discussion with students

Exact date can be changed due to Greenpeace preferences!!!

Week 13

Final test.

Final Exam Week

Course Materials

Bičík, I., Jeleček, L. and Štěpánek, V. (2001), Land-use changes and their social driving forces in Czechia in the 19th and 20th centuries. *Land Use Policy* 18 (1): 65-73.

Boulding, K. (1966). *The Economics of the Coming Spaceship Earth*. In H. Jarrett (ed.). *Environmental Quality in a Growing Economy*, pp. 3-14. Baltimore, MD: Resources for the Future/Johns Hopkins University Press.



<http://www.ub.edu/prometheus21/articulos/obsprometheus/BOULDING.pdf>

European Environmental Agency (2011), EEA Signals 2011: Globalisation, environment and you. Copenhagen: EEA, min. 2 chapters.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/signals-2011-1>

Ewing B., Moore, D., Goldfinger, S., Oursler, A., Reed, A. and Wackernagel, M. (2010), The Ecological Footprint Atlas 2010. Oakland: Global Footprint Network, p. 5-14.

[http://www.footprintnetwork.org/images/uploads/Ecological Footprint Atlas 2010.pdf](http://www.footprintnetwork.org/images/uploads/Ecological_Footprint_Atlas_2010.pdf)

Fagin, A. (2000), Environmental Protest in the Czech Republic: Three Stages of Post-Communist Development. Czech Sociological Review 8 (2): 139-156.

http://sreview.soc.cas.cz/uploads/239fd6717f8e86a92c33864b0064088308f59ed1_353_139FAGIN.pdf

Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (2014), Fifth Assessment Report – Climate Change 2014 – Synthesis Report – Summary for Policymakers.

http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5_SYR_FINAL_SPM.pdf

Klaus, V. (2005), Freedom and its enemies: Problems of re-establishing freedom and democracy in the European context. Economic Affairs 25 (2): 46-48.

<http://www.klaus.cz/clanky/1557>

Klaus, V. (2010), The Climate Change Doctrine is Part of Environmentalism, Not Science. Lecture at The Global Warming Policy Foundation.

<http://www.klaus.cz/clanky/2694>

Max-Neef, M. (1995), Economic growth and quality of life: a threshold hypothesis. Ecological Economics 15: 115-118.

Naughton, J. (2001), A brief history of the Czech lands. James Naughton's personal pages at Oxford University.

<http://users.ox.ac.uk/~tayl0010/history.htm>

Simon, J. L. (1995), Why do environmentalists persist in imagining global degradation? Human Events 51 (17): 11.

United Nations (1987), Our Common Future: Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. p. 54-60.

<http://worldinbalance.net/intagreements/1987-brundtland.php>



Glassheim, E. (2006), Ethnic Cleansing, Communism, and Environmental Devastation in Czechoslovakia's Borderlands, 1945-1989. *The Journal of Modern History* 78 (1): 65-92.

Pavan Sukhdev: Put a value on nature!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-QpKiU-NHo>

Bjorn Lomborg on Global priorities

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ge71ZTTRal>

EconStories: Keynes and Hayek Round 2

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTQnarzmTOc>