College of Europe
Collège d'Europe
Brugge Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME	ACADEMIC YEAR	SEMESTER
1. POL **2. MATA-POL**	**2025-2026**	**Second**

COURSE TITLE

The Clean Industrial Deal – A new dawning for the EU´s energy and climate policies

COURSE PROFESSOR	COURSE ASSISTANT
Dirk BUSCHLE	**Tanguy BALCON**

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)	LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION
1. Optional **2. Optional**	**English**

ECTS CREDITS

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1. COURSE OBJECTIVE

The energy sector has been at the heart of the European integration project from the early days. There is also no sector more fundamental to our societies, economies and individual lives. Over the last decade or so, it has been mainly viewed from the perspective of decarbonization. And that is for a reason: Our traditional ways to produce and consume energy are the main cause for climate change, one of the main challenges in the 21st century. The Von der Leyen I Commission's Green Deal has been the masterplan for the decarbonization of Europe's industry. It has been shaken by a pandemic, a war and the refashioning of the global order. Since then, the challenge has become a more fundamental one: will Europe's great transformation affect its economic and industrial basis and put it at a disadvantage in comparison to its global competitor? How to reconcile the decarbonization agenda of the Green Deal with that reinforced industrial policy focus lies at the core of the Clean Industrial Deal, the Von der Leyen II Commission's flagship policy and will shape the European integration discourse for years to come, Future decision-makers should be prepared to participate in these discussions, and have the tools and the knowledge for shaping Europe's future.

What is key in this respect is understanding governance – the objectives, instruments, processes and institutions shaping Europe's great energy and industrial transformation. In particular the European energy governance has significantly evolved over the last few years, and will continue to do so. At the same time, Europe's energy governance is closely and increasingly intertwined with global developments such as the Paris Agreement or trade with the US and China. Getting into and keeping up to speed with the European energy transition governance is one of the key objectives of the Course.

The Course aims at making students understand the complexity of the Green Deal and the Clean Industrial Deal, focusing on the energy transition, its objectives, stakeholders and decision-making processes on a global and European level. They should be empowered to participate in the transition debate, and ultimately help shaping the EU's energy and climate policy, including its relations with global partners. They will understand the specifics of the energy sectors, learn how European and international energy governance has evolved, its current state and the perspectives and challenges it faces. They will also be encouraged to establish a deeper affinity with the sector by preparing essays on issues of practical relevance.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course-specific learning outcomes

- A.1 Students develop a multidisciplinary understanding of the European political system.
- A.2 Students have a general knowledge of the main components of the EU political system: institutions, actors, decision-making procedures, competences and policies.
- A.3. Students comprehend disciplinary knowledge and theories specific to EU studies.
- A.4 Students possess an in-depth knowledge of fundamental aspects of the EU political system (institutions, actors, policies etc.).
- A.5 Students develop a concrete understanding of the logics of policy-making and negotiations within the EU political system, thanks to simulation exercises and the drafting of policy papers.
- A.7 Students can communicate in both French and English in an academic or professional context.
- B.1 Students can recognize, contextualize, explain, and interpret political, societal and economic phenomena in European integration. They can assess events, governance problems and political crises.
- B.3 Students can transform a complex problem into a research question, mobilize theories, develop a research design, and conduct empirical work to provide solutions in an analytical and balanced way.
- B.4 Students can flexibly apply theories and analytical frameworks from different disciplinary perspectives to the main issues of EU politics and policies.
- B.6 Students are capable of working as part of a complex project, individually or collectively, and they develop skills of planning, organisation, prioritisation and time management.
- B.7 Students can communicate clearly and effectively, through oral presentations or written documents, to different kinds of audiences.

For MATA students, the following MATA programme-specific learning outcomes are relevant

- The graduate can describe, explain and illustrate the current state of scientific research in the field of transatlantic affairs in the areas of energy and climate policy in a broad sense and, is, in line with his or her disciplinary focus, able to critically assess the results of this research.
- The graduate has good knowledge of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, the political and/or legal systems, the decision-making processes, the economic structures and the main internal and external policies of the European Union and the United States.
- The graduate can approach the field of transatlantic affairs in a broad sense analytically by assessing the challenges in this domain with an open mind for diversity and for complex situations.
- The graduate has the ability to critically reflect upon problems regarding an extensive range of transatlantic affairs, to adopt well-informed points of view and to communicate them effectively orally and in writing, whether working independently or in a team.
- The graduate can independently transform complex transatlantic issues in the areas of energy and climate policy into a research question within the broader field of transatlantic affairs and, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, find, select and critically assess relevant sources, answer the question using appropriate concepts and methods and present the research results in line with the ethical rules of the chosen discipline.

- The graduate is capable of processing a large amount of information and appropriately analyse relevant sources depending on his or her disciplinary focus within a short period of time and of suggesting possible actions that contribute to problem-solving in a creative way.
- The graduate has the intellectual maturity and skills to take responsibilities and function autonomously in a professional environment at national or international level, and especially in a transatlantic context, and to work efficiently and effectively through planning, organizing, setting priorities, meeting deadlines, cooperating across cultural boundaries and networking.

3. COURSE CONTENTS

This Course covers European energy and climate governance under the Green Deal and the Clean Industrial Deal in a comprehensive manner and embedded in an international context. It will cover the following aspects:

1. Rockefeller reloaded (a recap on how we built a carbon world and became dependent on fossil fuels (the industrial revolution and the development of fossil fuel sectors (coal, oil, gas) will serve as an introduction to focus of the following session on Europe's transformation.
2. The Forging of European energy policy – from coal management to coal phase-out (European integration history starts with the European Coal and Steel Community and currently is all about decarbonisation and industrial policy. We will in particular explore the eventful history of European energy policy between market liberalisation and public intervention in this chapter).
3. Renewable and low-carbon energy – the quest for Europe's fuel (Green and clean fuels – wind, solar, water, biomass, nuclear or hydrogen – lie at the heart of Europe's transformation. We will explore the differences between the energy sources and how they are transformed in molecules and electrons. We will put particular emphasis on the electricity sector. Renewable electricity takes center stage in the energy and climate transition. To truly grasp its complexity in technical and economic terms along the whole supply chain will exemplify the chances and challenges of European energy and climate policy, and take students to the knowledge levels required for active participation in the transformation discourse).
4. Nothing ever be the Same – the Governance of the Green Deal We will open and examine the regulatory toolbox of the Green Deal: from classic regulation to targets and plans to emission trading and subsidies, budget and green financing).
5. Back to Black – Enter the Clean Industrial Deal (Increasing bureaucracy, high energy prices and a growing discontent – since the last European elections the support for the original Green Deal has been called into question. The creation of a European industrial policy is as much part of the answer as a recalibration of the previously pursued policies. We will explore the ongoing legal and policy initiatives and place them into the context of what we have learned so far),
6. Between a Rock and a Hard Place – the Struggle for Supremacy in a Decarbonised Future (in this concluding chapter, we will focus on the geopolitical aspects of energy, climate and industrial policy. They cannot be separated from the ongoing changes of the global order which make the European efforts more difficult but may also call into question their efficiency. One thing is sure: The Green and Clean Industrial Deals will also determine Europe's geopolitical relevance and strategic autonomy in the world).

4. TEACHING METHOD

The Course follows a multi-disciplinary approach and includes historical, technical, economic, political, regulatory and legal aspects. It is based on academic research as much as on practical experience of the lecturer in designing and implementing European and international energy policy. Besides lectures, the Course will include case studies, debates and simulations".

The studentsin small groups of 2-3, will also be asked to elaborate on a topic of practical relevance, write an essay on the basis of own research and present it in class.

5. COURSE MATERIAL*

Course PowerPoint and notes, readings.

6. EVALUATION

Oral examination (50 %)

Essay and presentation (40%) –The essay counts for 30% of the total mark, the presentation for 10%.

Participation (10%) – This includes the performance of the students during the exercises, their attendance, punctuality and active participation to class and exercises.

Plagiarism: Pursuant to Articles 39a and subsequent provisions of the College of Europe Study Regulations 2025–2026, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, and the falsification of data are expressly prohibited and shall be deemed to constitute academic misconduct. All written work submitted by a student shall be subject to assessment with regard not only to its originality but also to the scope and rigor of the research undertaken. Any instance of plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, or falsification of data, as defined in the aforementioned Study Regulation, shall give rise to the imposition of penalties in accordance with Article 40 thereof.

Artificial Intelligence: Pursuant to Articles 38 and subsequent provisions of the College of Europe Study Regulations 2025–2026, the category of permitted generative AI (genAI) use for the present course is **restricted use**. Students may employ genAI tools exclusively at the foundational stages of the work process, such as brainstorming on structure or approach, screening of literature, or the organisation of data. The use of genAI for advanced stages of the work process, including the analysis or interpretation of data, the generation of arguments, the drafting or writing of text, or translation and rewriting of content, is strictly prohibited.

The non-generative use of AI tools, such as for spell-checking, reference style management, or information searches, is by default permitted for all course work and the Master's thesis.

Any use of genAI, even within the restricted category, must be transparently acknowledged in accordance with the departments referencing guidelines. Students bear full responsibility for the entirety of the content they submit, irrespective of the tools used, and must ensure compliance with College regulations on academic integrity, data protection, and intellectual property. Violations of the permitted scope of AI use, or failures to acknowledge such use, shall constitute academic misconduct and will be sanctioned in line with Articles 39a, 39b, and 40 of the Academic Regulations on plagiarism, falsification of data, and related infringements.

7. Assessment at second attempt

During the second examination session the course is assessed **100%** on the basis of a written resit exam.