

May Term Travel 2024

Energy in Transition

Salzburg, Austria

Led by: Professor Valerie Rountree, PhD

Department of Environmental Studies

May 3-29, 2024

Austria – like every other nation on Earth – is facing a multitude of threats from climate change, including decreased forest productivity, negative impacts to its economy from decreased snowpack, higher frequency of storms and flooding, and greater heat stress. However, unlike most other countries, Austria has plans for sweeping change – many of which have already been implemented – allowing it to serve as a model for others, including the U.S.



In this course, we will explore the past, present, and future of Energy in and around Austria and the complex interactions between social, economic, political, and environmental conditions. We will comparatively analyze Austria, Europe, and the United States' approaches to climate change mitigation and international cooperation, per capita carbon footprints, and how this translates into daily life and culture, especially in Austria. We will delve into energy uses and transitions in Austria, renewable energy systems, and emerging energy technologies in and around the city and explore the ways in which Austria has become a new frontier for remarkable energy innovations. And, critically, we will explore Austria's perspective on climate justice and the role of economically developed countries in helping less developed countries adapt to changing climate.

Enrollment Limit: 15

LAIs: Oral Communication (OC)

Course Fee: \$1950

Included in course fee: Room for the entire term, food (Monday breakfast through Thursday lunch, and dinners Monday through Wednesday), laundry, course administrative costs, iNext International Health Insurance, day trips and overnights near Salzburg: (1) Munich, (2) Vienna, (3) Kaprun Dam and Innsbruck, (4) Tauernwindpark, and/or (5) Traunreut geothermal plant.

Additional expenses (not included in course fee): Travel to and from Salzburg, Austria (est. cost \$1500), public transportation costs, food and lodging (beyond those included in course), entertainment, and souvenirs (est. cost \$600-\$1500), ETIAS visa waiver fee (est. cost \$10).