

Politics of Climate Change

GVPT 4090

University of Maryland / Spring 2017

Course Time: Tue 2:00-4:45

Lecture Location: LEF 1220

Office: Chincoteague 3117H

Phone: 301-405-1770

Office Hours: Th 2:30-4:30pm and by appointment



Dr. Jennifer Hadden

Jhadden1@umd.edu

Course Overview

Most scientists believe that we need to take immediate action to avoid dangerous climate change. But, so far, international and domestic policy has not met this challenge. The goal of this course is to help you gain a critical understanding of how climate policy is made, and how it can be improved. We will ask: why have political actors found it so difficult to adopt an effective response to climate change? What would that response look like? This seminar surveys the political and normative challenges posed by climate change, drawing on scholarly research, policy texts, and popular media accounts. We will pay particular attention to the multi-level nature of climate policy-making, examining the interaction between political processes in sub-national, national, and international arenas.

Prerequisites

GVPT 200 is a prerequisite for this course.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Evaluate and respond to research and policy arguments regarding the climate change problem;
- Design and conduct a research study that contributes to scientific understanding of the politics of climate change;
- Formulate recommendations for policy action based on scientific evidence, logical reasoning, and individual judgment.

Course Texts

Books: The following books will be used extensively in the course, and is available for purchase at the Bookstore. If ordering online, please pay particular attention that you get the most recent

edition, as the latest version is substantially revised. Copies will also be held on reserve at the library.

- Maslin, Mark. 2014. *Climate Change: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press [ISBN 978-0-19-871904-5]
- McKibben, Bill (editor). 2011. *The Global Warming Reader: A Century of Writing About Climate Change*. New York: Penguin [ISBN 978-0-14-312189-3]

Articles: A variety of articles will be posted for this course on the Canvas website.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation: I expect students to attend every class, and will take attendance. If you have an emergency or medical problem and must be absent, please notify me in advance. It is also your responsibility to inform me in advance if you will be absent in order to attend religious observances. I expect you to arrive on time and stay until class ends. Repeated absences will result in grade penalties. I expect students to show up ready to discuss the readings assigned. Effective participation consists of making thoughtful comments and asking good questions, as well as actively engaging with classroom debates.

If you are going to miss class on an exam day or when a paper is due and would like your absence to be excused, you are required to email me regarding your absence in advance of the class and bring documentation to support your excused absence on the day you return. The University absence policy (one sick absence without a health center note) does not apply to days where we have scheduled papers or exams.

Canvas: We will be using Canvas every week. The site is available at: www.elms.umd.edu. You must make sure you are enrolled in our course - please let me know if you have any problems. I will be posting documents, schedule revisions, and other important information on Canvas.

Assignments: You will be required to complete a reading response essay, lead one class discussion, write a research plan and final research paper, and write a policy brief regarding the outcome of our climate negotiation simulation.

Office Hours and Email: I will be holding office hours Thursdays from 2:30 to 4:30pm and by appointment. I prefer that you make an appointment with me in advance via email. If you are having difficulty with the course or need to discuss particular assignments or accommodations you might require, I am happy to meet with you during this time. I am also happy to reply to questions via email.

Assignments and Grading

Assignments: This course has five main assignments:

- *Reading Response Essay:* You will be asked to write a one-page response to a set of readings for one week of class. You will receive detailed instructions and an assigned week in the second week of class.
- *Discussion Leader:* You will be asked to jointly lead discussion with 2-3 classmates for one week of class. This assignment includes coming up with guided discussion questions. You will receive detailed instructions and an assigned week in the second week of class.
- *Research Plan:* You will be asked to submit a one page research plan describing your research question, hypothesis, and proposed data collection for your final research paper. You will receive detailed instructions in class on February 14th.
- *Policy Brief:* You will be asked to write a two-page policy brief to your hypothetical “boss” following our in-class climate negotiation simulation. This brief will detail your position, the outcome of the negotiations, and your suggested next steps. You will receive detailed instructions for this assignment in class on March 28th.
- *Research Paper:* You will be asked to write a 7-8 page research paper that employs original data to answer a research questions relevant to climate policy. You will receive detailed instructions for this assignment in class on February 14th.

Participation: Students will be expected to participate in course discussion of the assigned reading. I will use the following guidelines to assign participation grades:

- A = Highly effective participant: insightful questions/comments, clearly does the reading, clearly attends and critically considers the material. Offers substantial constructive feedback of peer work.
- B = Consistent participant: thoughtful questions/comments, clearly does the reading, attends and thinks about the material. Offers helpful feedback of peer work.
- C = Occasional participant: regularly attends section, sporadic involvement in discussions, comments often based more on personal opinion than analysis of class material. Offer cursory comments in peer review.
- D = Observer: regularly attends section but does not get involved in discussions. Offers minimal feedback on peer work.
- F = Occasional observer: sporadic attendance, no participation, no engagement with peer review.

Grade Breakdown: Your grade will be a combination of your scores on these assignments as well as your course participation. The grade breakdown is as follows:

- 10% *Reading Response Essay*
- 10% *Discussion Leader*
- 15% *Research Plan*

20%	<i>Policy Brief</i>
30%	<i>Research Paper</i>
15%	<i>Participation</i>

Late Work: For essays I will subtract one letter grade per day (24 hours) that the paper is late.

Format for Papers: All papers must be typed, with the exception of work that we do in class. Papers should be formatted in 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with one inch margins on all sides. Your name, the date, and the assignment name should appear on the first page in the top left corner. Subsequent pages should have your last name and page number in the top right corner.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious offense at UMD, and can be ground for dismissal from the university. Plagiarism constitutes knowingly misrepresenting someone else's work as your own. This does not just apply to things like buying a paper off the internet; knowingly appropriating another author's quotes or ideas can also qualify as plagiarism. The University's plagiarism policy can be found on the web site of the Office of Student Conduct at: <http://www.inform.umd.edu/jpo/>. Please familiarize yourself with this policy, and ask any questions you may have in advance of submitting your work. Professors are required to bring all cases of suspected plagiarism to the attention of the OSC. Penalties include automatic course failure and an explanatory note on the student's transcript indicating that he or she has violated the rules of academic integrity.

Grade Appeals: Any request for a grade review must be submitted in writing along with the original assignment. I will re-grade the paper (e.g., the grade may go up or down) and we can meet to discuss any changes.

Other Issues

Classroom Behavior: I expect that everyone in our class will be treated with dignity. I will not accept disruptive or disrespectful behavior. Cell phones must be turned off before class, and food is not allowed. Drinks are ok, as long as they do not become a distraction. Laptop computers may be used, but email, chat, and other programs that might disrupt your learning or that of those around you must be disabled.

Disabilities: In compliance with UMD policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. If you have a documented disability or feel that you need an assessment, you should contact Disability Support Services (0126 Shoemaker Hall). The rules for eligibility may be reviewed on the DSS web site: http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/receiving_serv.html. Each semester, students with documented disabilities should apply to DSS for accommodation request forms, which you can provide to your professors as proof of your eligibility for accommodations.

Overview Course Calendar

The Problem of Climate Change	
Jan 31	Course Introduction
Feb 7	Science of Climate Change
Feb 14	Climate Ethics
Feb 21	NO CLASS [Work on Research Plan]
Feb 28	The Climate Movement and Critics
Mar 7	Media, Parties, and Public Opinion
International Climate Negotiations	
Mar 14	Global Commons Problems (and Solutions) [Research Plan Due]
Mar 21	SPRING BREAK
Mar 28	International Climate Cooperation
Apr 4	Climate Negotiation Simulation
Climate Solutions	
Apr 11	Deforestation, Land Use, and Agriculture [Policy Brief Due]
Apr 18	Energy and Development
Apr 25	Global Energy Simulation
May 2	Climate Adaptation
May 9	Course Mini-Conference
May 17	Final Paper Due on Canvas by 12pm

Readings and Assignments

Note: “GWR” refers to the “Global Warming Reader” textbook. Weekly readings should be completed in the order listed.

Week 1-6: The Problem of Climate Change

Jan 31 Course Introduction

- Read the syllabus, email with any questions.

Feb 7 Science of Climate Change

- Maslin, *Climate Change*. Chapters 1, 3-6.
- Crutzen and Stoermer, “The Anthropocene.” In GWR.
- Hansen et al., “Target Atmosphere CO₂: Where Should Humanity Aim?” In GWR.
- Hansen, “Global Warming Twenty Years Later: Tipping Points Near.” In GWR.
- Kolbert, “The Darkening Sea: What Carbon Emissions are Doing to the Ocean.” In GWR.

Feb 14 Climate Ethics

- Gardiner, “A Perfect Moral Storm: Climate Change, Intergenerational Ethics, and the Problem of Moral Corruption.”
- Shue, “Global and Environment and International Inequality.”
- Singer, “One Atmosphere.”
- Klinsky et al., “Comparing Public Rationales for Justice Trade-Off in Mitigation and Adaptation Climate Policy Dilemmas.”
- Baer et al. “Greenhouse Development Rights: A Framework for Climate Protection that is ‘More Fair’ than Equal Per Capita Emissions Rights.” (Skim proposal)

Feb 21 NO CLASS

Feb 28 The Climate Movement and Critics

Climate Movement

- McKibben, *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*. Ch 1.
- Jones, Excerpt from *The Green Collar Economy*. In GWR.
- Tidwell, “To Really Save the Planet, Stop Going Green.” In GWR.
- Klein, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate*. Introduction.
- Gore, Excerpt from *An Inconvenient Truth*. In GWR.
- Bingham, “John 5:1-9.” In GWR.

Critics

- Inhofe, “The Science of Climate Change: Senate Floor Statement.” In GWR.

- McCright and Dunlap, "Defeating Kyoto: The Conservative Movement's Impact on U.S. Climate Change Policy."

Mar 7 Media, Science, and Public Opinion

Media and Science

- Oreskes, "The Scientific Consensus of Climate Change." In GWR.
- Hulme, *What We Talk about When We Talk about Climate Change*. Ch 5, 'The Things We Believe' and Ch 6, 'The Things We Fear.'

Public Opinion

- Brulle et al., "Shifting Public Opinion on Climate Change: An Empirical Assessment of Factors Influencing Concern over Climate Change in the U.S., 2002-2010."
- Kahan, "Why We are Poles Apart on Climate Change"

Week 7-10: International Climate Cooperation

Mar 14 Global Commons Problems (and Solutions)

- Hardin, Garret, "The Tragedy of the Commons."
- Buck Cox, Susan, "No Tragedy of the Commons."
- Dietz et al., "The Struggle to Govern the Commons."
- Ostrom, "A Polycentric Approach for Coping with Climate Change."
- Bulkeley, "Reconfiguring Environmental Governance: Towards a Politics of Scales and Networks."

Research Plan Due on Canvas by 2pm

Mar 21 SPRING BREAK

Mar 28 International Climate Cooperation

International Cooperation

- Sprinz and Vaahatoranta, "The Interest-Based Explanations of International Environmental Policy."
- Axelrod and Keohane, "Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions."

Climate Negotiations History

- Chasek, Downie, and Brown. "Climate Change."
- Prins and Rayner, "Time to Ditch Kyoto."
- Analysis on the Paris Agreement (TBD).

Apr 4 Climate Negotiation Simulation

- Read briefing paper and prepare for simulation

Week 11-15: Climate Solutions

Apr 11 Deforestation, Land Use, and Agriculture

- Maslin, *Climate Change*. Chapters 8.

Deforestation and Land Use

- EUREDD Facility, "Introduction to REDD+"
- Kashwan, Prakash. 2015. "Forest Policy, Institutions, and REDD+ in Indonesia, Tanzania, and Mexico."

Agriculture

- Shiva, "Climate Change and Agriculture." In GWR.
- Vidal, "Nepal's Farmers of the Frontlines of Global Climate Change." In GWR.
- FAO, "Success Stories on Climate Smart Agriculture." (Read only one story)

Apr 18 Energy and Development

Energy

- Yi and Feiock, "Renewable Energy Politics: Policy Typologies, Policy Tools, and State Deployment of Renewables."
- Bayer and Urpelainen, "It's All About the Political Incentives: Democracy and the Renewable Energy Feed in Tariff."

Development

- Hulme, *What We Talk about When We Talk about Climate Change*. Ch 8, 'The Challenges of Development.'
- Schelling, "The Cost of Combatting Global Warming."

Policy Brief Due on Canvas by 2pm

Apr 25 Global Energy Simulation

- Read briefing papers and prepare for simulation

May 2 Climate Adaptation

Geoengineering

- Victor, et al. "The Geoengineering Option: A Last Resort Against Global Warming?"
- Keith, "The Case for Geoengineering Climate." Available at: <http://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/technology/keith/>
- Preston, "Ethics and Geoengineering: Reviewing the Moral Issues raised by Solar Radiation Management and Carbon Dioxide Removal."

Adaptation Policy

- Sowers, et al. "Climate change, water resources, and the politics of adaptation in the Middle East and North Africa."
- Read one of the case studies from the Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange:
<http://www.cakex.org/case-studies>

May 9 Course Mini-Conference

- Presentations of research papers

Final Paper Due on Canvas on by Wednesday, May 17th at 2pm