

## **Winter 2008: Geography H410: Global Climate & Environmental Change (call #21765-3)**

### **When and Where:**

Monday and Wednesday: Derby Hall Room 140 (11:00 a.m. to 12:18 p.m.)

Tuesday: in Derby Hall Room 140 (12:30 to 2:18 p.m.)

### **Instructor: Dr. Ellen Mosley-Thompson (thompson.4@osu.edu)**

Office: Derby Hall 1140; Telephone: 292-2580 or -6662)

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1:30 to 3:00 pm (or by appointment)

### **Teaching Assistant: Ms. Karin Bumbaco (bumbaco.1@osu.edu)**

Office: 1145 Derby Hall; Telephone 292-6127

Office hours: Wednesday 9:15 to 10:45 am; Friday 10:00 to 11:30 am and by appointment

**Course Objectives:** This course is taught in a lecture / seminar format and is designed to provide a more thorough understanding of the scientific basis of both natural and anthropogenic (human produced) climate and environmental changes. You will explore the key issues surrounding 20<sup>th</sup> century climate change (popularly called global warming) and the role of human activities in shaping the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the environment that sustains life on Earth. Through readings, lectures, discussions, student presentations, class debates and films you will gain insight to how these anticipated changes are likely to affect your future and explore actions by which you may contribute to solutions. You will gain experience using peer-reviewed literature to research a topic and then summarize your findings both orally and in writing. A key objective is to provide you with the knowledge base and skills to critically evaluate information you read or hear concerning climate change and related environmental issues.

**Prerequisites:** This course has no prerequisites except that you must be officially admitted to the University Honors Program.

**GEC Requirements:** This course meets B.A. and B.S. Degree GEC requirements for Natural Science (Physical Science) and Social Sciences (Human, Natural, and Economic Resources)

### **Textbooks (required - will be provided compliments of the Geography Department):**

- 1) Brown, Lester R., *Plan B 3.0 Mobilizing to Save Civilization*. W. W. Norton & Company, NY, pp. 371, 2008.
- 2) Dessler, A. E. and E. A. Parson, *The Science and Politics of Global Climate Change: A Guide to the Debate*. Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge, pp. 188, 2006.

Selected journal articles and book chapters will be placed on electronic reserve for the class. Additional books will be placed on reserve in the Geology Library in Orton Hall unless specified otherwise. Additional materials and exercises will be accessible for copying to your memory stick or CD. Please bookmark the class web page in your internet browser. The class web address is <http://geog-www.sbs.ohio-state.edu/courses/H410>. Select the Monday class. If you have trouble getting to the web page, you can log into the Geography Dept. web page [www.geography.ohio-state.edu] and from here click on Winter quarter classes and then on H410. Throughout the quarter additional reading and reference materials may be required. You will be alerted in class about updates to either Carmen or the class web page. At the beginning of the quarter the schedule of activities (lectures, guest speakers, group discussions, field trips, debates, presentations, papers, and films) will be posted on the class web page and will be

updated as the class progresses. Some of these will migrate to Carmen. All copies of my lectures will be posted on Carmen. Lectures with many color photos tend to be very large. In this case a “print” version in black and white will be available. Except for the first week of the class, readings are assigned in the week prior to the presentation of the material. Note that the class schedule may change slightly as the quarter progresses and you will be alerted to these changes. Remember that this is a lecture/ seminar style course and thus you need to remain flexible so that we may capitalize on climate- and/or environment-related events and special speakers on campus.

**Grading: Group presentations: 20% (two presentations – 10% each)**

**Individual research paper: 15%**

**Exercises: 20% (Exercise 1 – 5%; Exercise 2 – 10%; Exercise 3 – 5%); Exercise 4 is provides up to 10 extra points applied to your total for Exercises 1, 2, and 3.**

**Debates: 20% (two debates – 10% each)**

**Final examination: 15% (an essay)**

**Quizzes (3%), Participation (4%) and Attendance (3%): 10%** This means attending each class and field trips (if any), turning in all work on time, participating in the discussions, asking questions, being attentive and engaged in the class. You are allowed one un-excused absence. An excused absence requires written documentation (doctor’s excuse) or prior permission from Dr. EMT to be absent. I consider your requests on a case by case basis. There will be a few quick quizzes and they will be announced in advance.

**Additional Class Materials:** Additional materials will be placed on reserve throughout the quarter. The list of these will be maintained on the class web page under Reserve Materials. All materials (unless otherwise indicated) are on closed reserve in the Geology Library in Orton Hall [the building with the bell tower on the south side the Oval]. All materials will be filed under Geography H410 unless otherwise indicated. Additional class materials may be made available throughout the quarter.

**An Important Note about Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct:** Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. Please see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)). University rules provide severe penalties for academic misconduct, ranging from course failure to dismissal from the university. University rules are found in the handbook used in all survey courses: “University Survey - A Guidebook and Readings for New Students.” Any questions about this policy, or your grade, should be brought directly to the attention of Dr. EMT.

**Students with Disabilities and Special Needs:** Any student needing special accommodation on the basis of any disability must advise the instructor at the beginning of class. All necessary accommodations will be made upon presentation of relevant certification, presented in a timely manner. Students are also responsible for making contact with the Office for Disability Services at 292-3307, 150 Pomerene Hall, prior to or at the beginning of the quarter.

**Welcome to this Honors Seminar:**

I look forward to working with you as a group and individually as you learn more about your environment and the Earth’s climate system - past, present and future.