
Term Information

Effective Term Spring 2016

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Political Science
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Political Science - D0755
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences
Level/Career Graduate
Course Number/Catalog 6350
Course Title Politics of Global Climate Change
Transcript Abbreviation Globl Climate Chng
Course Description Climate change is among the most important challenges of our time and is the subject of heated political debate within and across countries. This course provides an advanced overview of the politics of climate change, with an emphasis on its international and global dimensions.
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 3

Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week, 12 Week (May + Summer)
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No
Grading Basis Letter Grade
Repeatable No
Course Components Seminar
Grade Roster Component Seminar
Credit Available by Exam No
Admission Condition Course No
Off Campus Never
Campus of Offering Columbus

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites Prereq: Grad standing or permission of instructor and approved petition to Graduate School
Exclusions

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 45.1001
Subsidy Level Doctoral Course
Intended Rank Masters, Doctoral

Requirement/Elective Designation

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Students will understand the various political actors and institutions involved in debates and governance efforts related to global climate change.
- Students will understand the sources and impacts of climate change and their implications for debates about environmental justice and sustainable development.
- Students will understand the evolution of the global climate regime and are able to analyze policy proposals from the perspective of their effectiveness and political prospects.

Content Topic List

- Theories of cooperation and institutions at the domestic and international levels
- The causes and impacts of climate change
- Historical evolution of the global climate regime
- Political actors and obstacles involved in climate policy-making
- Different perspectives of developed and developing countries
- How to evaluate existing climate policies and policy proposals

Attachments

- Syllabus_POLITSC6350.pdf: Syllabus

(Syllabus. Owner: Smith, Charles William)

Comments

- 10/02: Undergrads cannot enroll in 6000-level courses without permission from instructor & will not receive undergrad credit without petition to the grad school. *(by Haddad, Deborah Moore on 10/02/2015 10:11 AM)*

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Smith, Charles William	10/02/2015 09:28 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Herrmann, Richard Karl	10/02/2015 09:31 AM	Unit Approval
Revision Requested	Haddad, Deborah Moore	10/02/2015 10:11 AM	College Approval
Submitted	Smith, Charles William	10/02/2015 10:27 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Herrmann, Richard Karl	10/02/2015 06:55 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Haddad, Deborah Moore	10/02/2015 07:02 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Nolen, Dawn Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal Hanlin, Deborah Kay Jenkins, Mary Ellen Bigler Hogle, Danielle Nicole	10/02/2015 07:02 PM	ASCCAO Approval

Political Science 6350
The Politics of Global Climate Change
Autumn 20XX

(Syllabus for proposed course)

Meeting Days and Times
Classroom Location

Professor Alexander Thompson
Department of Political Science
Derby Hall 2038
Thompson.1191@osu.edu
Office hours: XX

Course Format and Description

This is a graduate course that will combine a seminar format with some lecturing by the instructor to introduce topics. Some sessions will also feature presentations by students on their research projects. The class will meet weekly.

Climate change is among the most important challenges of our time and is the subject of heated political debate within and across countries. This course provides an advanced overview of the politics of climate change, with an emphasis on its international and global dimensions. It is divided into three Parts:

- I. Theory and Background
- II. Political Responses to Climate Change
- III. Policy Domains and Debates

We will investigate these issues most systematically from the perspective of literatures and debates in the field of political science and its subfield of international relations. However, the course is explicitly designed to appeal to students from a variety of disciplines and to build bridges between scholarly work and practical policy questions. Climate change is a multi-faceted phenomenon that has implications for many aspects of the social world; it is an environmental problem but also a problem of economics, sustainable development, human security and ethical dilemmas. It has causes and impacts—and potential solutions—at scales from the local to the global. Climate change is also an issue that is evolving in real time as individuals, communities, NGOs, governments and international organizations seek to understand and respond to it. We will take advantage of this complexity and timeliness by considering insights from a variety of disciplines and updating each aspect of the course to include the latest policy developments.

Requirements and Graded Assignments

Students are expected to attend every class session, to complete the assigned readings in advance of each session, and to participate in class discussions. More than one unexcused absence will result in a penalty of one third of a letter grade (e.g., a B+ would become a B). The graded assignments are two papers, one presentation and a final exam. The final grade will be determined as follows:

Paper #1	30%
Paper #2	30%
Presentation	10%
Final Exam	30%

Papers

The papers should be 10 pages double-spaced. They should be submitted in class on the due date (Week 8 for Paper #1 and Week 15 for Paper #2). The two papers are linked, as the research for the first paper will serve as a foundation for the second paper.

Paper #1. Select a country that interests you and examine the politics of climate change in that country. Begin by describing your country's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and the current or anticipated impacts of climate change. Then explain what climate-related policies the country has implemented at the domestic and international levels. What individuals and/or interest groups have supported taking strong action on climate and what political obstacles have they faced. What theoretical insights from the literature help us explain the political divides and policy outcomes we observe in this country? If you choose to focus on a *developed* country (defined as countries in Annex 1 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change), you must address the country's policies with respect to providing climate financing and aid to the developing world. If you choose to focus on a *developing* country (non-Annex 1), you must address its policies related to climate adaptation.

Paper #2. From the perspective of the government of the country you researched for Paper #1, you must develop a proposal designed to inform international climate negotiations. You should present your country's positions on key issues in the negotiations (to be determined by the actual issues on the agenda at that time) and explain how these relate to the circumstances and political interests of your country. Your proposal should advocate specific recommendations related to the agreements and institutional mechanisms that comprise the global climate regime and should explain why the status quo is inferior to what's being proposed.

Presentations

Students can choose to present either Paper #1 or Paper #2 in class. We will devote one class session to each set of presentations. Presentations of Paper #1 should be modeled on an academic conference presentation. Presentations of Paper #2 should be modeled on an address to a plenary session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The length of the presentations will be determined by the number of students presenting but will be about 10-15 minutes, followed by questions and discussion.

Final Exam

The final exam will cover the readings and all discussions and presentations made during our class sessions. It will consist of multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, and one or more essay questions that require you to synthesize and make connections across different parts of the course.

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Course Texts

The following required books are available at the Student Book Exchange and OSU bookstore in Barnes & Noble, both on High Street:

- J. Timmons Roberts and Bradley C. Parks. 2006. *A Climate of Injustice: Global Inequality, North-South Politics, and Climate Policy*. MIT Press.
- Frank Biermann, Philipp Pattberg and Fariborz Zelli, eds. 2010. *Global Climate Governance beyond 2012: Architecture, Agency and Adaptation*. Cambridge University Press.
- Elinor Ostrom. 1990. *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. Cambridge University Press.
- Jessica F. Green. 2014. *Rethinking Private Authority: Agents and Entrepreneurs in Global Environmental Governance*. Princeton University Press.

Course Outline and Readings	
Week 1	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Introduction to the course: overview of syllabus, course goals and expectations. -Introduction to climate change as a social scientific and policy issue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change as an environmental issue Climate change as an international development issue Climate change as a human security and humanitarian issue -What does it mean to study climate change from a political perspective? <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spencer Weart, "The Development of the Concept of Dangerous Anthropogenic Climate Change," in <i>The Oxford Handbook of Climate Change and Society</i>, ed. By John S. Dryzek, Richard B. Norgaard, and David Schlosberg. • Andrew Dessler and Edward A. Parson. 2010. "Global Climate Change: A New Type of Environmental Problem." Chapter 1 of <i>The Science and Politics of Climate Change</i>, 2nd Ed. Cambridge University Press. • UN Development Programme. 2011. <i>Human Development Report 2011: Sustainability and Equity</i>. New York: UNDP.
PART I: BACKGROUND AND THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS	
Week 2	<p>Theories of Institutions and Public Goods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Tragedy of the Commons -Theories of collective action -Political institutions and regulation <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garrett Hardin. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons." <i>Science</i> 162: 1243-48. • Mancur Olson. 1965. <i>The Logic of Collective Action</i>. Harvard University Press, Chapters 1 & 2. • Elinor Ostrom. 1990. <i>Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action</i>. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-3 & 6. • Sheldon Kamieniecki. 1991. "Political Mobilization, Agenda Building, and International Environmental Policy," <i>Journal of International Affairs</i>, Volume 44, Winter, pp. 339-358. • Russell Hardin. 1999. "Democracy and Collective Bads," In Ian Shapiro and Casiano Hacker-Cordon, eds., <i>Democracy's Edges</i>, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 63-83. • Terry Moe. 2005. Power and Political Institutions. <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 3(2): 215-33.

<p>Week 3</p>	<p>International Institutions and Cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Theories of international regimes -The role of international institutions -Compliance with international rules <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Axelrod. 1984. <i>The Evolution of Cooperation</i>. Basic Books, Chaps. 1 & 4. • Kenneth Oye. 1985. Explaining Cooperation under Anarchy: Hypotheses and Strategies. <i>World Politics</i> 38: 1-24. • Robert O. Keohane. 1982. "The Demand for International Regimes." <i>International Organization</i> 36(2): 325-55. • Ronald Mitchell. 1994. Regime Design Matters: Intentional Oil Pollution and Treaty Compliance. <i>International Organization</i> 48(3): 425-58. • Lisa Martin and Beth Simmons. 1998. Theories and Empirical Studies of International Institutions. <i>International Organization</i> 52(4): 729-57. • Scott Barrett. 1999. "International Cooperation and the International Commons," <i>Duke Environmental Law & Policy Forum</i>, Vol. 10: 131-45. • Robert Putnam. 1988. Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games. <i>International Organization</i> 42: 427-61.
<p>Week 4</p>	<p>The Causes of Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Who and what is responsible? -The role of energy and economic development -What mitigation strategies make sense in light of these causes? <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPCC, 2013: Summary for Policymakers. In <i>Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis, Contribution of Working Group 1 to the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC</i>. • Johan Rockstrom et al. 2014. Climate change: The necessary, the possible and the desirable. Earth League climate statement on the implications for climate policy from the 5th IPCC Assessment. <i>Earth's Future</i> 2(12): 606-11. • J. Meckling and C. Hepburn, "Economic Instruments for Climate Change," in R. Falkner, ed., <i>The Handbook of Global Climate and Environment Policy</i> (Malden, Mass.: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013). • Michael Jefferson. 2013. A Renewable Energy Future? In <i>Handbook on Energy and Climate Change</i>. Edward Elgar, pp. 254-69. • International Monetary Fund. 2013. Energy Subsidy Reform: Lessons and Implications.

<p>Week 5</p>	<p>The Impacts of Climate Change</p> <p>-Who is affected and how? -What is the range and distribution of impacts? -What adaptation strategies make sense in light of these impacts?</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Chapters 12 and 16. • Roberts & Parks, Chapters 3 &4. • Lindsey Stringer et al. 2009. Adaptations to Climate Change, Drought and Desertification: Local Insights to Enhance Policy in Southern Africa. <i>Environmental Science & Policy</i> 12, pp. 748-65. • Burton, I., Huq, S., Lim, B., Pilifosova, O., Schipper, E.L.. 2002. From impacts assessment to adaptation priorities: the shaping of adaptation policy. <i>Climate Policy</i> 2, 145–159. • Declan Conway et al. 2015. Climate and Southern Africa’s Water-Energy-Food Nexus. <i>Nature Climate Change</i> 5, 837-46. • Oxfam. 2014. Hot and Hungry: How to Stop Climate Change Derailing the Fight Against Hunger. https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/mb-hot-hungry-food-climate-change-250314-en_3.pdf
<p>Week 6</p>	<p>North-South Dimensions: Sustainable Development and Justice</p> <p>-What is the relationship between climate change and economic development? -What is the developing world’s perspective on climate change? -Issues of equity and justice surrounding climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Commission on Environment and Development. 2007. Our Common Future. (Brundtland Commission Report) • Noreen Beg et al. 2002. Linkages between Climate Change and Sustainable Development. <i>Climate Policy</i> 2(2-3), pp. 129-44. • UNDP. 2011. <i>Human Development Report 2011: Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All</i>. New York: UN Development Programme. • Roberts & Parks, Chapters 1, 2 & 5. • Aaron Maltais. 2008. Global warming and the cosmopolitan political conception of justice. <i>Environmental Politics</i> 17 (4), pp. 592–609 • Amar Bhattacharya, Jeremy Oppenheim and Nicholas Stern. 2015. Driving Sustainable Development through Better Infrastructure. Global Economy & Development Working Paper 91. Brookings Institution and Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment.

PART II: POLITICAL RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE	
Week 7	<p>Domestic Political Challenges: Lessons from the U.S.</p> <p>-What are the opportunities and obstacles to implementing climate policy? -Focus on the United States</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metcalf, Gilbert E. 2009. "Market-based policy options to control U.S. greenhouse gas emissions." <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 23(2): 5–27. • Barry Rabe. "Contested Federalism and American Climate Policy," <i>Publius: The Journal of Federalism</i>, vol. 41, no. 3 (Summer 2011): 494-521. • Sheldon Kamieniecki, "Navigating the Maze: Corporate Influence over Federal Environmental Rulemaking," <i>Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development</i>, Vol. 48, Number 5, 2006, pp.8-20. • Metcalf, Gilbert E. 2009. "Market-based policy options to control U.S. greenhouse gas emissions." <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 23(2): 5–27. • Harriet Bulkeley and Michele M. Betsill. 2013. Revisiting the Urban Politics of Climate Change. <i>Environmental Politics</i> 22(1): 163-154. • Fankhauser, Sam, Gennaioli, Caterina and Collins, Murray (2015) The political economy of passing climate change legislation: evidence from a survey. <i>Global Environmental Change</i> 35, pp. 52-61.
Week 8	<p>Comparative Climate Politics</p> <p>-Why do countries respond differently to climate change and environmental problems more generally? -How does political variation across countries shape climate policy? -The distinct issues in developing countries.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inglehart, Ronald. 1995. "Public Support for Environmental Protection: Objective Problems and Subjective Values in 43 Societies." <i>PS: Political Science and Politics</i> 28(1):57–72. • Hugh Ward and Xun Cao. 2012. Domestic and International Influences on Green Taxation." <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 45 (9). • Bohmelt, Tobias, Thomas Bernauer & Vally Koubi. 2013. "Is There a Democracy-Civil Society Paradox in Global Environmental Governance?" <i>Global Environmental Politics</i> 13(1). • Babette Never and Joachim Betz. 2014. Comparing the Climate Policy Performance of Emerging Economies. <i>World Development</i> 59: 1-15. • Roberts & Parks, Chapter 6. <p><i>Paper #1 due</i></p>

<p>Week 9</p>	<p>Climate Politics Around the World -Student Presentations Based on Paper #1</p>
<p>Week 10</p>	<p>The Evolution of Global Climate Institutions -The UN Framework Convention, Kyoto Protocol and other agreements -The structure of international climate negotiations -The role of international organizations</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFCCC, “Uniting on Climate 2007,” “The First 10 Years,” and “The Kyoto Protocol Mechanisms.” At http://unfccc.int/essential_background/background_publications_htmlpdf/items/2625.php. • Daniel Bodansky and Lavanya Rajamani. 2016. The Evolution and Governance Architecture of the Climate Change Regime. In D. Sprinz and U. Luterbacher, eds., <i>International Relations and Global Climate Change</i>. MIT Press, forthcoming. • Joanna Depledge. 2007. A special relationship: Chairpersons and the secretariat in the climate change negotiations. <i>Global Environmental Politics</i>, Vol.7, no.1, pp.45-68. • von Stein, Jana. 2008. The International Law and Politics of Climate Change: Ratification of the UN Framework Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 51: 243-68. • Alexander Thompson. 2010. “Rational Design in Motion: Uncertainty and Flexibility in the Global Climate Regime.” <i>European Journal of International Relations</i> 16(2): 269-96.
<p>Week 11</p>	<p>The Role of NGOs and Private Authority in Climate Governance -The role of civil society actors in shaping the terms of debates surrounding climate change. -How do NGOs influence the policies of states? -What role do NGOs play in global negotiations and governance?</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jessica F. Green. 2014. <i>Rethinking Private Authority: Agents and Entrepreneurs in Global Environmental Governance</i>. Princeton University Press, entire book. • Miriam Schroeder. 2008. The construction of China’s climate politics: Transnational NGOs and the spiral model of international relations. <i>Cambridge Review of International Affairs</i> 21(4), pp. 505–525. • Tobias Böhmelt, Vally Koubi and Thomas Bernauer. (2013) Civil society participation in global governance: Insights from climate politics. <i>European Journal of Political Research</i> 53(1): 18-36.

Part III: Policy Domains and Debates	
Week 12	<p>The State of the Climate Regime: Coherence or Fragmentation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Comparison of top-down and bottom-up elements of the regime. -Is there a single climate regime or many competing and overlapping institutions? -The current state of negotiations. <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Keohane and David Victor, "The Regime Complex for Climate Change," <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 9 (2009): 7-23. • Bierman et al., eds., Chapters 1-4 & 6. • Daniel Bodansky. 2011. A Tale of Two Architectures: The Once and Future UN Climate Change Regime. <i>Arizona State Law Journal</i> 43(1). • Biermann, Frank, et al. (32 co-authors). 2012. "Navigating the Anthropocene: improving earth system governance" <i>Science</i> 335: 1306-1307. • Joseph E. Aldy. 2013. Designing a Bretton Woods Institution to Address Global Climate Change. In <i>Handbook on Energy and Climate Change</i>. Edward Elgar, pp. 352-373. • Maria Ivanova. 2012. "Institutional Design and UNEP reform: historical insights on form, function, and financing." <i>International Affairs</i>, Vol. 88, Issue 3, pp.565-584.
Week 13	<p>Effectiveness and Performance Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -How can we measure the effectiveness of international environmental institutions? -What aspects of the climate regime have been more or less effective? -Focus on adaptation projects and outcomes <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oran R. Young and Michael A. Levy, M. A. .1999. The effectiveness of international environmental regimes. In O.R. Young (Ed.), <i>The effectiveness of international environmental regimes: Causal connections and behavioral mechanisms</i> (pp. 1–32). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. • Ronald Mitchell. 2006. "Problem structure, institutional design, and the relative effectiveness of international environmental agreements." <i>Global Environmental Politics</i> 6:3, 72-89. • Global Environment Facility. 2014. Fifth Overall Performance Study of the GEF. Final Report: At the Crossroads for Higher Impact. Washington: GEF Independent Evaluation Office. • Catherine Weaver, J. Baker and C. Peratsakis. 2012. Tracking climate adaptation aid: Methodology, Climate Change and African Political Stability Research Brief No. 5. University of Texas, Austin. • Martin Stadelmann, Asa Persson, Izabela Ratajczak-Juszko, and Axel Michaelowa. 2014. Equity and cost-effectiveness of multilateral adaptation finance – Are they friends or foe? <i>International Environmental Agreements</i>

	14(1): 101–20.
Week 14	<p>Climate Finance and Foreign Aid: Trends and Institutions</p> <p>-Where will the money come from to support mitigation and adaptation? -Bilateral and multilateral mechanisms for climate funding. -Focus on the North-South dimensions of climate finance.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara Buchner et al., 2013. <i>The Landscape of Climate Finance 2013</i>. Climate Policy Initiative Report. • Report of the Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing. 5 November 2010. New York: United Nations. • Alexander Thompson. Forthcoming. The Global Regime for Climate Finance: Political and Legal Challenges. In Cinnamon P. Carlarne, Kevin R. Gray, and Richard Tarasofsky, eds. <i>The Oxford Handbook of International Climate Change Law</i>. Oxford University Press. • Edward A. Page. 2011. Cosmopolitanism, Climate Change, and Greenhouse Emissions Trading. <i>International Theory</i> 3(1): 37-69. • World Bank. 2009. <i>World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change</i>. Washington: World Bank, Chapters 7-9.
Week 15	<p>Simulated Plenary Session of UNFCCC Conference of the Parties</p> <p>-Presentations based on Paper #2</p> <p><i>Paper #2 due</i></p>
Final Exam	Date and Time