

PL SC 536 Seminar on Climate Change, Air Pollution, and Energy Law and Policy
MW 3-4:30, 296 JRCB (cross-listed with Law 795)

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Office Hours: MW 1-3 and by appointment

The goals of this class are to help you better understand, critically assess, and communicate to others the major issues surrounding the science of climate change and its causes and consequences, current policies in place affecting greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) and how well they are working, and the leading policy options that are being discussed to address climate change. The discussion of the science of climate change will focus on the main conclusions of the scientific bodies that have produced consensus-based climate science reports, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the National Academy of Sciences, and leading assessments by individual scientists who challenge the mainstream research as either underestimating or overestimating the risks of climate change.

Course requirements:

1) Research paper on a topic related to climate change; given the limited national policy making in this area in the United States, I encourage papers that assess current climate policies in other countries (75% of grade). The paper should be about 25 pages, with sources carefully documented using one of the standardized formats for endnotes, footnotes, or parenthetical references, and completed in a form suitable to submit to a law, public policy, or some other journal as a major article. **A 1 page prospectus for paper due—working title, background, main argument—is due in class Sep 10.**

2) Final exam (essay questions on the main issues surrounding climate science, existing climate-related laws and policy options) (25% of grade).

Class attendance and active participation in class discussions are required and your final grade may be adjusted up or down by up to 5 percent based on attendance and participation. Please note that we will not be meeting during several class times because I will be attending professional conferences; we will make up the time missed by meeting until 4:30 and through additional activities.

Assigned Readings:

Gerrard, Michael, ed. *Global Climate Change and U.S. Law*. American Bar Association, 2007.

Victor, David G. *Climate Change: Debating America's Policy Options*. Council on Foreign Relations, 2004.

Lane, Lee. *Strategic Options for Bush Administration Climate Policy*. American Enterprise Institute, 2006.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Reports, available at www.ipcc.ch

Working Group I Report, The Physical Science Basis, summary for policymakers

Working Group II Report, Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, summary for policymakers

Working Group III Report, Mitigation of Climate Change, summary for policymakers

Climate Change 2007 (November 2007)

Joint science academies' statement: Global response to climate change,

<http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/document.asp?latest=1&id=3222>

Tentative Schedule: Please update as changes are announced during the semester

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reading Assignment</i>	<i>Topic</i>
Wed Sep 5	Gerrard, ch 1 Please watch “An Inconvenient Truth” before coming to class	Overview of climate change science, law, and policy
Fri Sep 7	7pm: dinner at my house/discussion of paper topics, 2690 N. 700 E., Provo, 377 6933 (replaces a cancelled class; please bring spouse/friend if you’d like)	
Mon Sep 10	Victor, pp 1-26 IPCC working groups I and II reports	The basics of climate change science prospectus for paper due
Wed Sep 12	IPCC working group III report Joint science academies’ statement	“
Sat Sep 15	9-2: Pioneer Park, 100 S. 500 W., Provo, Living Green in Utah Valley, especially Dianne Nielson’s presentation on Western Climate Initiative (replaces a cancelled class)	
Mon Sep 17	Gerrard, chs 2, 4, 8	Current legal framework: international law
Wed Sep 19	“	
Mon Sep 24	Gerrard, chs 3,5	Current legal framework: US law, Clean Air Act
Wed Sep 26	no class	
Thur Sep 27	10am, 257 HRCB, Elizabeth Economy, “China and the Environment” (replaces a cancelled class)	
Mon Oct 1	no class	
Wed Oct 3	no class	
Mon Oct 8	(Gerrard, ch 5)	overview of environmental law
Wed Oct 10	(Gerrard, ch 6)	overview of the common law
Mon Oct 15	Gerrard, ch 6	Civil remedies/common law
Wed Oct 17	Gerrard, chs 13-15	Corporate actions and relevant law
Mon Oct 22	Gerrard, chs 7, 9	Regional, state, and local law
Tue Oct 23	11: Marriott Center, Chief Justice John Roberts (replaces a cancelled class)	
Wed Oct 24	Gerrard, chs 10-12	Regional, state, and local law
Mon Oct 29	Gerrard, ch 16	Energy law
Wed Oct 31	Gerrard, ch 17	Voluntary programs
Mon Nov 5	Victor, pp 26-114	Assessing policy options
Wed Nov 7	Lee, pp 1-103	“

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reading Assignment</i>	<i>Topic</i>
Mon Nov 12	no class	
Wed Nov 14	no class	
Mon Nov 19	Gerrard, ch 18	Assessing policy options
Wed Nov 21	thanksgiving holiday	
Mon Nov 26	Gerrard, ch 19	“
Tue Nov 27	11: Marriott Center, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (replaces a cancelled class)	
Wed Nov 28	IPCC, Climate Change 2007	Summary of climate change legal and policy issues
Thur Nov 29	10am, 257 HRCB, Jagdish Bhagwatti, “In Defense of Globalization” (replaces cancelled class)	
Mon Dec 3	Presentation of research papers	
Wed Dec 5	“	
Mon Dec 10	“	
Wed Dec 12	“	
Fri Dec 14	5pm: final paper due; please submit a hard copy to 745 SWKT	
Fri Dec 21	7-10am Final exam	

A Note on Important University Policies

Honor Code Standards: In keeping with the principles of the BYU Honor Code, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. Academic honesty means, most fundamentally, that any work you present as your own must in fact **be** your own work and not that of another. Plagiarism or any other form of cheating on a paper or exam will result in a failing grade for that exam/assignment, and violations of this principle may result in a failing grade in the course and additional disciplinary action by the university. Please see http://www.byu.edu/honorcode/honor_code.htm#HONESTY for examples of plagiarism. Please call the Honor Code Office at 422-2847 or talk to me if you have questions about those standards.

Preventing Sexual Discrimination or Harassment: Sexual discrimination or harassment (including student-to-student harassment) is prohibited both by the law and by Brigham Young University policy. If you feel you are being subjected to sexual discrimination or harassment, please bring your concerns to the professor. Alternatively, you may lodge a complaint with the Equal Employment Office (D-240C ASB) or with the Honor Code Office (4440).

Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this course, you should get in touch with the office of Services for Students with Disabilities (1520 WSC). This office can evaluate your disability and assist you in arranging for reasonable accommodations.

Student Learning Outcomes: Each program at BYU has developed a set of expected student learning outcomes. These will help you understand the objectives of the curriculum in the program, including this class. To learn the expected student outcomes for the programs in this department and college go to <http://learningoutcomes.byu.edu>, and click on the College of Family, Home and Social Sciences and then Political Science department. We welcome feedback on the expected student learning outcomes. Any comments or suggestions you have can be sent to <FHSS@byu.edu>.