

**The College of William & Mary and Virginia Institute for Marine Science  
Spring 2007**

**PUBP600/MSCI698: Climate Change: Science, Policy, and Law**

**Meets Wednesdays 3:30 – 6:20 pm, Morton Hall 139**

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Office: Morton 15  
Office Hours: Wed after class  
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**Course Overview and Objectives**

This seminar will examine climate change as possibly one of the most critical environmental, economic, and ethical issues facing humanity. The goal is to expose students to different perspectives in contemporary climate change debates and foster a vibrant intellectual environment for exchange of information and creation of knowledge in the classroom. The course will review the interplay among science and politics and the resulting policy outcomes in an attempt to shed light upon the challenges and uncertainties surrounding the current debates. Topics will include the science, politics, economics, ethics, and governance of climate change; the tension between development and climate policies; the impacts of globalization and the media coverage of climate change; the history and future of the legal negotiations; and the policies of the United States, the European Union, and developing countries. Building on theoretical concepts, the course will introduce students to real-world practical concerns and seek to develop a vision for addressing climate change beyond 2012. This interdisciplinary seminar will also include a trip to Washington, DC for a day of discussions with policy experts. The course will require active participation throughout the semester.

**Readings**

Brown, Donald. 2002. *American Heat: Ethical Problems with the United States' Response to Global Warming*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

Crichton, Michael. *State of Fear*. 2005. Avon (paperback).

Dessler, Andrew and Edward Parson. *The Science and Politics of Global Climate Change*. Cambridge University Press. February 2006. (available on Blackboard)

Maslin, Mark. *Global Warming: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press. 2004.

All other readings will be posted on Blackboard. While *State of Fear* is not assigned for any particular class session, it will provide a critical basis for our discussions throughout the semester.

**Class Format**

Climate change is a dynamic topic that generates multiple publications, opinions, and stories every day. Staying current requires constant research and, as a team, we can monitor the developments and help each other learn. Students will therefore work as creators of knowledge in the classroom.

Each week the instructor will present an overview of the topic in question and lead a discussion on the assigned readings. In the second part of the class, one of the students will present a concrete case study linked to the general topic, explain its origins and significance, and lead discussion. The student would have also assigned a set of readings on the case study in question and the rest of the class would be

expected to come prepared. Each student will be responsible for leading 2 class sessions in the course of the semester.

### **Assignments**

Discussion leaders will post a summary of the debates on Blackboard the day after class and the rest of the class will post short commentaries within 2 days. Thus, each student will lead two discussions, produce 2 summaries, and submit a commentary on every summary but their own. This work will culminate in a paper on potential post-Kyoto climate regime.

### **Participation (25%)**

Class attendance and active participation in discussions and in-class group work will be critical to our ability to meet the goals of the class. You are encouraged to ask questions, make comments, and challenge the assumptions presented in the readings, by the instructor, and by your classmates. Your participation grade will be based on your contributions as discussion leader, your regular participation in class discussions, and the commentaries on session summaries.

### **Session Summaries (20% total – 10% each)**

1-page memo (single spaced, 1" margins, Times New Roman 12 point font) describing your topic, key findings, and significance. The memos will be posted on Blackboard and serve as a basis for discussion throughout the semester. Each student is expected to deliver 2 summaries.

### **Annotated Outline (15%)**

An annotated outline of your paper describing the main arguments and sketching preliminary evidence. It should look roughly like a table of contents with abstracts underneath each major heading. For each heading, use a topic sentence that directly expresses the main idea of the section. Your annotations must be directly related to this topic sentence and should contain roughly four to six sentences under each heading, enough to give the reader a clear idea of each section's contents, and no more. The annotated outline should help you conceptualize the paper and make progress toward its completion.

### **Final Paper (40%)**

A final paper of 5,000 – 7,000 words (about 10-12 pages single spaced, Times New Roman 12 font, 1" margins). The paper should be analytical, not descriptive, and envision a climate change regime architecture beyond 2012. The paper will cover and integrate issues discussed in class and can build on your summaries. Further instructions will be discussed in class. Due May 10.

### **Course Policies**

**Academic Integrity:** William & Mary operates on the Honor Code and you are expected to uphold standards of academic honesty. Academic dishonesty or cheating includes any misrepresentation of another's work as your own, including unacknowledged paraphrasing or quoting, use of another student's material, incomplete acknowledgement of sources including Internet sources, or submission of the same work to complete the requirements of more than one class. Please consult *Sources: Their Use and Acknowledgement* <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~sources/> on the standard processes of documentation.

All assignments, whether graded or not, must be completed to pass this course.

**Attendance:** Students are required to attend class regularly. You may miss three classes without penalty. Thereafter, your participation grade will drop 10% for each class you miss. If you miss more than six classes, you will fail the course.

**Assignment submissions:** Written assignments should be submitted in **both** electronic and hard copy. Electronic copies should be posted to the Discussion Board on Blackboard and will often serve as basis for in-class discussion. Late papers will be assigned the following penalties: One day late = 10% off; Two days late = 25% off; Three days late = 50% off; Four days late = 100% off. Exceptions will be made for documented medical or personal emergencies only.

**Class cancellations:** If class must be cancelled, continue reading as scheduled in the syllabus. We will make up the lost time in class.

**Changes to Syllabus:** Minor changes to the syllabus may be made in the course of the semester. Some readings may be added to Blackboard as new material on contemporary topics we are discussing comes out. Any changes will be announced in class in advance and revisions will be made to the Blackboard version of the syllabus.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Leader</b>
1. Introduction - Goals and methods of class - Inconvenient truth	Jan 24	Maria Ivanova
2. The Foundations	Jan 31	Maria Ivanova
3. Politics of climate change	Feb 7	Kristen McCann
4. Science of climate change	Feb 14	Kelli Milleville
5. Ethics in climate change	Feb 21	David Sievers
6. No class	Feb 28	-----
7. Economics of climate change	March 7	Massey Whorley
SPRING BREAK	<b>March 14</b>	-----
8. DC trip and guest lecturers	March 23	-----
9. The United States and climate change	March 28	Kristen McCann
10. The EU and the transatlantic debate	April 4	Massey Whorley
11. Developing countries: development and vulnerability	April 11	David Sievers
12. The role of the media	April 18	Kelli Milleville
13. Leaders and laggards: communities, businesses, individuals	April 25	All
14. Conclusions: a post-Kyoto agenda	May 2	Maria Ivanova

## LECTURE SCHEDULE

### **Week 1: January 24**

Introduction: climate change issues and governance

*Inconvenient Truth* screening

### **Week 2: January 31**

The Foundations

*Readings:*

Dessler and Parson, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-18)

Daniel Bodansky, International Law and the Design of a Climate Change Regime, pp. 201-220 in Urs Luterbacher and Detlef F. Sprinz (eds.), *International Relations and Global Climate Change*, MIT Press, 2001.

***Please post on Blackboard a newspaper or magazine article on climate change that you find particularly informative and interesting.***

### **Week 3: February 7**

The Politics of climate change

*Basic reading:*

Dessler and Parson, Chapter 2

### **Week 4: February 14**

The science of climate change

*Basic reading:*

Dessler and Parson, Chapter 3

“Summary for Policy Makers” of *The Physical Science Basis: IPCC Working Group I Fourth Assessment Report*. To be released February 2, 2007: [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch).

### **Week 5: February 21**

Ethics and climate change

*Basic reading:*

Brown, Chapters TBA

### **Week 6: February 28 – no class**

### **Week 7: March 7**

The economics of climate change

*Basic reading:*

Dessler and Parson, Chapter 4

Choose from *Stern Review: The Economics of Climate Change*. Her Majesty's Treasury, United Kingdom. 2006. or Massey can require us to read particular selections.

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent\\_reviews/stern\\_review\\_economics\\_climate\\_change/stern\\_review\\_report.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/stern_review_report.cfm)

## **SPRING BREAK No Class March 14**

### **Week 8: March 21 – no class**

**Session rescheduled for March 23 in Washington, DC**

### **Week 9: March 28**

The United States and climate change

*Basic reading:*

Brown, Chapters TBA

### **Week 10: April 4**

The EU and the transatlantic debate

*Basic reading:*

Christiansen, Atle C. and Jørgen Wettestad. "The EU as a frontrunner on greenhouse gas emissions trading: how did it happen and will the EU succeed?" *Climate Policy*, 3 (2003) 3-18.

### **Week 11: April 11**

Developing countries: development and vulnerability

*Basic reading:*

Luukkanen J, Kaivo-oja J. 2002. "Meaningful participation in global climate policy? Comparative analysis of the energy and CO2 efficiency dynamics of key developing countries." *Global Environmental Change* 12(2): 117-126.

For an analysis of the Kyoto Protocol's implications for a number of different countries, see the International Review for Environmental Strategies.

[http://www.iges.or.jp/en/pub/ires/volume5\\_1.html](http://www.iges.or.jp/en/pub/ires/volume5_1.html)

### **Week 12: April 18**

The role of the media

*Basic reading:*

"Balance as Bias: Global Warming and the US Prestige Press," by Maxwell T. Boykoff and Jules M. Boykoff. *Global Environmental Change* 14:125-136. 2004.

"Accepting Global Warming as Fact," by Markus Becker, *Neiman Reports* (Winter 2005):97-98.

<http://www.neiman.harvard.edu/reports/05-4NRwinter/Becker-NRw05.pdf>

### **Week 13: April 25**

Leaders and laggards: communities, businesses, individuals

*Basic reading:*

Amicus Brief of the US Conference of Mayors, et al., *Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency*: **read only pp. 1 – 6.**

<http://www.sierraclub.org/environmentallaw/lawsuits/docs/2006-08-30-briefmayors.pdf>

“California Lawmakers Adopt Tough Climate Rules,” *All Things Considered*, National Public Radio. August 31, 2006. <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5744849&ft=1&f=1025>

*Post one or two articles about leaders or laggards in climate change.*

### **Week 14: May 2**

Conclusion: Climate change governance beyond 2012

*Basic reading:*

Dessler and Parson, Chapter 5

Daniel Bodansky, International climate efforts beyond 2012: A survey of approaches, Pew Center on Global Climate Change, [www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-in-depth/all\\_reports/international\\_climate\\_efforts/index.cfm](http://www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-in-depth/all_reports/international_climate_efforts/index.cfm)

Fisher et al, Alternatives to the Kyoto Protocol: A New Climate Policy Framework? International Review for Environmental Strategies.

And watch out for “Mitigation of Climate Change: Summary for Policy Makers,” IPCC Working Group III Fourth Assessment Report. **To be released May 3, 2007:** [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch).