Global and Regional Climate Change: Social, Economic, and Policy Dimensions

Geography 370
450:370:01

This course explores the human dimensions of global and regional climate change. The course emphasizes interactions between processes of climate change and other large-scale societal transformations, including globalization and urbanization, and considers the consequences of and responses to these changes at different spatial scales. Topic areas include economic and social causes of climate change, vulnerability to multiple stressors, mitigation and adaptation strategies, climate justice, and green economies. A lecture and discussion format is used in the class. Class attendance and participation in class discussions are required.

Times and Places
Class: TTH 3:20-4:40; 101 Beck Hall, Livingston Campus

Contact Information
Professor Robin Leichenko
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Office: B-265 Lucy Stone Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2-3pm or by appointment

Requirements and percentage of grade associated with each requirement
1. First Midterm exam (25 percent)
2. Second Midterm exam (25 percent)
3. Written assignment (20 percent)
4. Presentation assignment (10 percent)
5. Discussion questions about weekly readings (15 percent)
6. Class Participation (5 percent)
   -Mandatory participation in class discussions
   -Mandatory attendance in class
   -Mandatory participation in group assignment

Required Textbook and Required Readings

Other required readings and materials for the class will posted each week on the course Sakai website.
Exams
There will be two in-class midterms. The format of the midterms will include short essays and short answer definitions of key terms. There is no final exam in this class.

Assignments
The class assignments will be posted and submitted on Sakai using the “Assignments” feature on the Sakai course website. Assignment 1 will entail a three to four page write-up with a minimum of 750 words of written text, plus additional text for proper citation of references. This write up must be done individually and must contain your own words and thoughts. Assignment 2 will entail development of a powerpoint that will be presented as part of a small group assignment (grading will be done individually).

Late assignments will not be accepted except in the event of illness or religious observance (which must be documented in writing).

Discussion questions
Students are required to develop a list of at least five issues and/or questions for class discussion based on guest lectures, on-line materials, and reading assignments. These question lists need to be written using complete sentences. The questions should focus on issues you think are interesting and meaningful and that might be worth discussion with the class. There are four dates when discussion questions are due (see key dates and discussion schedule below).

Discussion questions will submitted via the course Sakai site and will be graded on a check, check-plus, or check-minus basis. We will use these questions as the basis for class discussions.

Late discussion questions will not be accepted except in the event of religious observance, documented illness, or documented family emergency.

Key Dates
Feb 4: Bill McKibben Lecture - 7:30pm Rutgers Student Center
Feb 5: Discussion qs #1 due (post to Sakai by 3pm)
Feb 14: Discussion qs #2 due (post to Sakai by 3pm)
Feb 28: Midterm 1 in class
Mar 14: Assignment 1 due (post to Sakai by 11:55pm)
Mar 28: Discussion qs #3 due (post to Sakai by 3pm)
April 11: Discussion qs #4 due (post to Sakai by 11:55pm)
April 18: Midterm #2 in class
May 3: Assignment 2 in class presentations (ppt must by posted to Sakai by 11:55pm)

Classroom Etiquette
Cell phones (including text messaging) must be turned off while you are in the classroom. You are expected to pay active attention to class lectures and discussion and to be actively involved in-class group assignments.
Policy regarding Missed Exams
*Make-up exams will not be given except in the event of religious observance, documented illness, documented family emergency, or documented Rutgers team event.*

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to understand and to act in accordance with the Rutgers [Academic Integrity Policy](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/policy-on-academic-integrity):
Lecture Topic Areas, Assigned Readings, and Discussion Schedule

Assigned readings must be read prior to the classes in which they are discussed.

(Chapters refer to Leichenko and O’Brien textbook; Readings on Sakai are readings that will be posted in the “Resources” section of the Sakai site in folders labeled for each topic/week)

Week 1 (Jan 22, Jan 24) Human Dimensions of Climate Change
Readings: Leichenko and O’Brien - Chapter 1

Week 2 (Jan 29, Jan 31) Key Terms and Concepts
Readings: Leichenko and O’Brien - Chapter 2 and Chapter 3

Week 3 (Feb 5, Feb 7) Key Terms and Concepts
Reading: Leichenko and O’Brien, Chapter 4

Feb 4 (Monday) Bill McKibben lecture (7:30pm in Rutgers Student Center).
(Discussion questions #1 will be based on this lecture)

Feb 5 - Discussion questions #1 based on McKibben (post to Sakai by 3pm).

Week 4 (Feb 12, Feb 14) Media and Public Perception of Climate Change
Readings and Video Links posted on Sakai

Feb 14 - Discussion questions #2 on Readings and Video links (must be posted to Sakai by 3pm)

Week 5 (Feb 19, Feb 21) Energy: Consumption, Policies, and Mitigation Options
Readings on Sakai

Week 6 (Feb 26, Feb 28) Mobility: Tourism Sector
Readings on Sakai

Feb 28 Midterm 1 – In Class

Week 7 (Mar 5, Mar 7) Food and Water: Land Use, Production, and Consumption
Readings on Sakai

Week 8 (Mar 12, Mar 14) Food and Water: Vulnerability to Multiple Stresses
Leichenko and O’Brien, Chapter 5

Mar 14 Assignment 1 due (must be posted to Sakai by 11:55pm)

Spring Break (Mar 19, Mar 21)
Week 9 (Mar 26, Mar 28) Hotspots: Arctic Regions, Island Nations and Coastal Zones
Leichenko and O’Brien, Chapter 7
View films online: Art and the Arctic
(http://www.hulu.com/watch/145121/art-from-the-arctic), and others TBA.

Mar 28: Discussion questions #3 on Hotspot Videos (Must be posted to Sakai by 3pm)

Week 10 (Apr 2, Apr 4) Cities and Climate Change
Leichenko and O’Brien, Chapter 6, Readings on Sakai

Week 11 (Apr 9, Apr 11) Security and Climate Change
Readings and video links on Sakai

April 11: Discussion questions #4 on Readings and Videos (Must be posted to Sakai by 11:55pm)

Week 12 (Apr 16, Apr 18) Responding to Climate Change
Leichenko and O’Brien, Chapter 8

April 18 – Midterm 2 in class

Week 13 (April 23, Apr 25) Adaptation, Mitigation, Transformation
Background Research and Group Work on Assignment 2

Week 14 (Apr 30, May 2) Wrap-up and Group Presentations

May 2 – Group Presentations of Assignment 2 (post ppt to Sakai by 11:55pm)