

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
ENST/GEOG 2500A, FALL 2018**

CLIMATE CHANGE: SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVES

Instructor: Dr. Jamie Brownlee
Classroom: TBA
Class Time: Monday 11:35am-2:25pm
Office: Loeb B340
Office Hours: TBA
Email: jamiebrownlee@cunet.carleton.ca
Phone Number: 613-899-2193
Pre-requisites: GEOG 1020 or ENST 1020, or second-year standing

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

There is an overwhelming consensus among climate scientists and others that climate change poses a serious – and potentially grave – threat to human beings, ecosystems and other species. This course will use a social science perspective to look at the issue of global climate change, including its history, root causes and consequences. Throughout the course, we will discuss how the climate crisis is integrally related to global capitalism, systems of power and inequality, and the structure of the modern corporation. We will consider the specific role of social processes and institutions – such as politics and governments, economic growth, globalization, the fossil fuel industry, consumer culture, the mass media, and the advertising and public relations industries – in shaping climate change debates and contributing to the crisis. We will also examine the efficacy of different responses and solutions to the problems associated with climate change, ranging from market reforms and ‘green capitalism’ to more radical social and economic transformations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Because this is a social science course, students will be encouraged to think critically about how social, economic and political arrangements underlie global climate change. How and why are dominant social institutions at the root of climate change and our current responses to it? What are the connections between social and economic inequality and the policy-making process? How do systems of power, culture and ideology impact and accelerate the climate change threat? More generally, this course will challenge students to identify and interrogate their beliefs and assumptions about the social world, and to identify opportunities for engagement with these issues beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

COURSE TEXT AND READING MATERIALS

- Klein, Naomi. 2014. *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate*. Toronto: Knopf.

Please note that **all other assigned readings** will be available through cuLearn.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

1.	<i>CRITICAL REACTION PAPER</i>	15%
2.	<i>MIDTERM EXAM</i>	25%
3.	<i>FINAL PAPER</i>	30%
4.	<i>FINAL EXAM</i>	30%

GRADES

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (p. 45), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			

WDN = Withdrawn from the course

Final grades are subject to the Dean's approval.

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here:

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website (www.carleton.ca/pmc) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

For Religious Obligations:

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation

policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

For Pregnancy:

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See <http://www.carleton.ca/sasc/academic-integrity/>).

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar.

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?

A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including: expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; and/or a reprimand; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; award of an FNS, Fail, or an ABS. The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students.

What are the Procedures?

All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and/or departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS

Student Academic Success Centre (SASC): www.carleton.ca/sasc

Writing Tutorial Services: <http://www.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/>

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): <http://carleton.ca/csas/group-support/pass/>

COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK ONE

INTRODUCTION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE EVIDENCE: WHAT DOES THE SCIENCE SAY?

WEEK TWO

HISTORICAL ROOTS OF THE ECOLOGICAL AND CLIMATE CRISIS

WEEK THREE

THE EXTERNALIZING MACHINE: CORPORATE PERSONHOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

WEEK FOUR

CAPITALISM VERSUS THE CLIMATE: EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF CAPITAL ACCUMULATION, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND GLOBALIZATION

WEEK FIVE

OUR RENEWABLE ENERGY FUTURE: THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS, UNBURNABLE CARBON AND THE FATE OF THE PUBLIC SPHERE

WEEK SIX

MIDTERM EXAM

WEEK SEVEN

GLOBAL WARMING IS GOOD FOR YOU: THE PUBLIC RELATIONS INDUSTRY AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

WEEK EIGHT

CONFRONTING CONSUMPTION ON A WARMING PLANET: INEQUALITY, CONSUMER CULTURE AND CORPORATE 'GREENWASH'

WEEK NINE

UNDERMINING ACTION ON THE CLIMATE FRONT: OVERCOMING THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY OF THE HARPER GOVERNMENT

WEEK TEN

THE TAR SANDS AND CANADA'S ENERGY FUTURE

WEEK ELEVEN

UNDERSTANDING AND CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE DENIAL

WEEK TWELVE

SOLUTIONS TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS: GREEN CAPITALISM OR SYSTEMS CHANGE?