

**SYLLABUS: CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE AND SOLUTIONS**  
**UF Quest 2 Spring 2023 GLY2110/ 28381 & 28382**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> period (9:35-10:25 am; WM100) &  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> (9:35-11:30 am; WM202) & Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> (9:35-11:30 am; WM202)**

**INSTRUCTORS**

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Zimmerman, Department of Geological Sciences  
Office: 364 Williamson Hall, Ph# 392-0070, e-mail: [azimmer@ufl.edu](mailto:azimmer@ufl.edu), Office Hours: Tuesday 1-2 pm (or by appt.)

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Jalissa Weekes e-mail: [jalissa.weekes@ufl.edu](mailto:jalissa.weekes@ufl.edu), Office: 262 WM, Office Hours:  
Monday 1-2 pm (or by appt.)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Global climate change is the defining issue of our time. It will impact every aspect of life, from the economy, to agriculture, health and ecology, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond, and in every country of the Earth. And yet, because of its complexity, multidisciplinary nature, and the preconceptions held by individuals, most people only have a dim understanding of the evidence for, predicted effects, and potential solutions to this issue. In addition to presenting students with the scientific background necessary to evaluate the evidence for the theory of anthropogenic climate change and the global effects of climate change, we will use the topic of climate change to examine how modern science 'is done' and how it is viewed and used in society, globally. Working collaboratively and using the scientific method, we will explore the multi-disciplinary evidence behind climate change and its global and cross-cultural effects and develop potential novel adaptation and mitigation solutions and to communicate this work effectively.

**Prerequisites:** none    **Credits:** 3    **Course Fee:** none

**This Class in the Quest 2 Curriculum and fills Physical Science (P) and International (N) Gen Ed Requirements**

**COURSE DELIVERY**

The course will require both on-line and in-class participation. Each week, students will:

- 1) Complete a 'Spark' Discussion on topic of the week (the day before Tuesday class)
- 2) Attend 1 class period that will focus on direct content delivery, i.e. lecture by instructor (Tuesday)
- 3) Do assigned readings (in textbook and provided on-line) and take on-line quiz (Wed. night before Thursday or Thursday night before Friday class)
- 4) Attend 2-period class (Thursday or Friday) in which students will:
  - Review material and quiz with the instructor
  - Complete an In-Class Activity that reinforces the 'Fundamental Science Topic' & 'Framework Topic'. This is usually a group activity that will be turned in (via Canvas, one per group, by Friday or Saturday night). These weekly activities/discussions will build on lecture content by introducing qualitative and quantitative data analysis and experiential learning through real-life problem assessment. Group activities challenge students to synthesize this information and create novel solutions for personal, national, and international dilemmas.

In addition, students will work on a semester-long group project, both in and outside of class, which will, via hypothesis testing and quantitative analysis, develop a novel approach to mitigating climate change.

Students are required to bring a laptop or other web-enabled device (though use of a smart phone is not advised). Students are also required to participate in a midterm exam one evening of the semester and the final exam.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### Course Website

The course will run via **Canvas** (UF <https://ufl.instructure.com/>). The course site will be used to post relevant announcements, reading, lecture materials, links, assignments and quizzes, etc. You are responsible for checking this site for updates, announcements and to verify that your grades are recorded correctly. No grade will be changed more than one week following the due date for the assignment. It is recommended that students adjust Canvas settings so that Announcements are sent to phone or email. All communication with instructors should use the mail tool within this site.

### Required Textbook

*Dire Predictions: Understanding Climate Change*, by Mann and Kump, 2015, Pearson, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (\$10-20 used on Amazon, Kindle or at the UF bookstore for about \$39). In addition, there will be numerous selected readings posted or linked through the course website weekly.

## ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING

### Final Grade Calculation

18%	<u>Homework (individual):</u>	
	3.6% 12 'Spark' On-line Discussions	3 pts each, 36 total
	14.4% 13 On-line Quizzes (lowest 1 dropped)	12 pts each, 144 total
2.4%	<u>In-class Attendance</u> (individual) 14 meetings (2 dropped)	2 pts each, 24 total
36%	<u>In-class Activities</u> (group) 13 assignments, (lowest 1 dropped)	30 pts each, 360 total
30%	<u>Final Project</u> (group)	300 pts. total
	Initial Proposal (group assessment)	1% = 10 pts.
	Hypothesis/Sources (group assessment)	1% = 10 pts.
	Quant. Method (group assessment)	5% = 50 pts.
	Final Presentation (group assessment)	20% = 200 pts.
	Effort and Reflection (individual assessment)	3% = 30 pts.
6.8%	Mid-term Exam*	68 pts.
6.8%	Final Exam*	68 pts.
		1000 pts. Total

### Final Grade Scale

A = ≥93%, A- = 90-92.99, B+ = 87-89.99, B = 83-86.99, B- = 80-82.99, C+ = 77-79.99, C = 73-76.99, C- = 70-72.99, D+ = 67-69.99, D = 63-66.99, D- = 60-62.99, E < 60

**\*Note:** The midterm and final exam scores will be curved to a median of 85% using a linear method described here: <http://www.ats.amherst.edu/software/excel/excel-grading/excel-grades/#CurvingGrades>

**\*Note:** A grade of 'C-' or below does not qualify for major, minor, Gen. Ed., or college basic distribution credit.

Information on UF grading policies may be found at: [catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-gradingpolicies/](http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-gradingpolicies/).

## Discussions

Discussions are meant to initiate thinking on the week's topic before any material has been presented. For each 'Spark Discussion', each student must make one substantive original comment (1.5 pts.) and one substantive response to the comment of another student (1.5 pts.). That is, students must read what has been said before and add something more than a few words of agreement or disagreement. No credit will be given for late submissions.

## Quizzes and Exams

Each week students must complete a time-limited (30 min.) quiz on Canvas by midnight of the day before the 2-period class consisting of 12 multiple choice questions (open book/notes) on all lecture and reading materials presented that week. These quizzes can be completed up to 1 week late but only for half the possible credit except in the case of an excused absence.

The Midterm Exam will be given on campus in the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup> class week (7-9 pm, see schedule below), closed book. Students must bring a laptop to take the exam which will consist of both multiple choice questions (some taken from quizzes, some new) and several essay questions. Everything associated with the class up to the point of the exam (Weeks 1-6), including on-line material and in-class discussion/exercises, is fair game. If there is an issue with attending the exam at this time, it should be discussed with the instructor at least one week prior to the date. The final exam will be during the scheduled time and cover all material of the course.

## In-Class Activities

At each class meeting, there will be a team assignment (answer to questions, spreadsheet calculation, etc.) to be completed and turned in, usually via Canvas (Assignment Tab) by the evening of the day after class (11:59 pm). Group members should indicate and rotate assignment of lead submitter. These assignments will not be accepted after 1 week following the class. Full credit will be awarded as follows:

- 3 points – Assignment was submitted by the due date (1 point loss if submitted within 1 day of due date)
- 9 points – Demonstrates complete competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used within the subject area.
- 9 points – Critical Thinking: Carefully, logically, and fully analyzes information from multiple perspectives and develops reasoned solutions to problems within the subject area.
- 9 points – Communication: Clearly and effectively communicates knowledge, ideas, and reasoning in forms appropriate to the subject area.

## Attendance

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Students with excused absences during class periods with group activities will be asked to complete separate scaled-down assignments to complete and will receive their grade on that instead of receiving the same grade as the rest of their group members. Students with non-excused absences during class periods with group activities will receive a zero grade on the missed group activity. Attendance scoring will be managed by the Canvas system. Check to make sure all values are recorded correctly. No corrections will be made more than 1 week after the absence/lateness event.

## Semester Project

Students, in groups of 5, will be asked to work as a team to create and evaluate either a strategy to mitigate climate change. The strategies will range widely, e.g., from a solar-powered bicycle to a change in international law. We encourage student groups to consider a local or regional problem and solution, but it is important that

the project also be evaluated from an international and multicultural perspective as well. Each group will start with a hypothesis, then work to test the hypothesis and quantitatively evaluate the efficacy of the strategy by weighing the calculated costs against the potential benefits that would result from the adoption of their strategy (climate, human health, economic, etc.) or by comparing the action to a different course of action. At the end of the assignment (in both presentation and paper), students are required to evaluate the efficacy of the project were it to be carried out in other regions of the U.S. and the world. What economic, social or cultural barriers might there be in other locations?

During the course of the semester, both lectures and sub-assignments will build students' skills and the knowledge base needed for this kind of problem solving. At the end, an oral presentation will be made to the class. More details can be found on the course website.

### **Extra Credit/Field Trip**

We will visit the Solar Park just south of campus (Solar Decathlon House, Solar array, Bioenergy Lab) during the semester (see schedule below). Those attending the field trip will receive 2% extra credit added to final grade tally. Transportation will be provided.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

### **Absence/Late Assignments**

Students are expected to complete all requirements (quizzes, exams, presentation) on the specified dates and will not be granted an alternate date unless they have an acceptable reason for their absence (e.g., due to medical emergency, observance of religious holidays, military obligation, etc.) and pre-arranged consent of the instructor. These requests must be timely and accompanied by all necessary written documentation. This policy is accordance with UF's attendance policies, which can be reviewed further at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. Quizzes and assignments completed late will suffer a loss of points spelled out in each section above (generally half off). No assignment can be turned in more than 1 week after its due date without instructor consent. Discussions cannot be completed late.

### **Grade Appeals**

Students or student groups who feel that their quiz, discussion, in-class activity or semester project was graded unfairly or incorrectly should make an appointment with their TA to discuss the issue. If students are still dissatisfied with the resulting explanation or action, they should then make an appointment with the lead instructor to discuss the issue.

### **Classroom policy and demeanor**

Students are required to bring to each class meeting a laptop or similar device for use in taking notes, summarizing in-class activities, and accessing the Internet. However, use of mobile devices and computers during class for purposes other than viewing readings or conducting sanctioned research/communications is not allowed. Students who receive or make calls or text messages or engage in other disruptive behavior during class will be asked to leave will not be allowed to turn in the assignment due on that day.

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion.

### **Academic Honesty Policy**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by

the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code ([sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/](http://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/)) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.

**Materials and Supplies Fees:** There are no additional fees for this course.

**Software Use**

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Such violations are also against University policies so disciplinary action may be taken.

**Students Requiring Accommodations**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

**Health and Wellness**

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

**Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at [gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/](http://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/).

**Weekly CCSS Due Dates For Thursday Lab (Section #28381)\***

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	On-line 'Spark Discussion' due 11:59 pm	Class Lecture (9:35-10:25 am)	Complete Readings On-line Quiz due 11:59 pm	Class (9:35-11:30 am)	Turn in ICA on-line by 11:59 pm	

**Weekly CCSS Due Dates For Friday Lab (Section #28382)\***

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	On-line 'Spark Discussion' due 11:59 pm	Class Lecture (9:35-10:25 am)		Complete Readings On-line Quiz due 11:59 pm	Class (9:35-11:30 am)	Turn in ICA on-line by 11:59 pm

\*this does not include due dates of assignments relating to the Semester Project, Midterm Exam or Field Trip

**Spring 2023 COURSE SCHEDULE**

Week Of:	Week #	Module	Fundamental Science Topic	Framework Topic	Other Activities	Reading in 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed. <i>Dire Predictions</i> pgs.	
9 - Jan	1	Introduction to climate and CC	Perceptions of CC	Interdisc. Science			
16 - Jan	2		Climate Drivers	Scientific Method		6-29	
23 - Jan	3		Climate History	How Science is Done		30-51	
30 - Jan	4		Evidence for Anthro. CC	Uncertainty/Consensus		30-51	
6 - Feb	5		CC and the Weather	Research and Big Data	Intro. Semester Project (2 <sup>nd</sup> hr)	52-67 & 112-115 & 132-135	
13 - Feb	6		CC Projections	Models	Sem. Proj. Initial Proposals	68-117	
20 - Feb	7	Problems and Solutions	Ecological Impacts of CC	Team Science		124-131 & 188-189	
27 - Feb	8		Agriculture/ Land Use	Communicating Science	Midterm Exam – Feb. 27 (Mon. 7 pm)	150-163 & 184-187	
6 - Mar	9		Population/Consumption	Ethics /Sustainability	Sem. Project Hypoth./Source	136-149 & 206-207	
13 - Mar	x		----- No Class – Spring Break -----				
20 - Mar	10		Energy	From Lab to the Real	Field trip – Mar. 24?	164-177	
27 - Mar	11		Built Environment	Effecting Change	Sem Proj. Quant. Method Presentation	178-199	
3 - April	12	CC Policy	Environmental Policy	Science in Action		200-213	
10 - April	13		Sea Level Rise	Science in the Public Realm		36-37 & 110-111 & 122-123 & 158-159	
17 - April	14		----- Semester Project Presentations During Class -----				
24 - April	15		Wrap up/Evaluations/ Individual Assessment		<b>FINAL EXAM Friday May 1, 3-5 PM</b>		

### Quest 2 General Education

#### **Quest 2 Objectives**

Grounded in the modes of inquiry and analysis characteristic of the social and/or biophysical sciences, Quest 2 courses invite students to address pressing questions facing human society and the planet—questions that outstrip the boundaries of any one discipline and that represent the kind of open-ended, complex issues they will face as critical, creative, and thoughtful adults navigating a complex and interconnected world.

#### **Accomplishment of Quest 2 General Education Objectives**

Quest 2 courses will:

- address in relevant ways the history, key themes, principles, terminologies, theories, or methodologies of the various social and biophysical science disciplines that enable us to address pressing questions and challenges about human society and the state of our planet.
- present different social and biophysical science methods and theories, and consider how their biases and influences shape pressing questions about the human condition and the state of our planet.
- enable students to analyze and evaluate (in writing and other forms of communication appropriate to the social and biophysical sciences) qualitative or quantitative data relevant to pressing questions concerning human society and/or the state of our planet.
- analyze critically the role social and the biophysical sciences play in the lives of individuals and societies and the role they might play in students' undergraduate degree programs.
- explore or directly reference social and biophysical science resources outside the classroom and explain how engagement with those resources complements classroom work.

**NOTE:** A detailed outline the course's week-by-week Topics, Activities, and Learning Objectives is provided below.

#### **Quest 2 General Education Student Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of the Quest 2 course, students will be able to:

- identify, describe, and explain the cross-disciplinary dimensions of a pressing societal issue or challenge as represented by the social sciences and biophysical sciences incorporated into the course. (Content)
- critically analyze quantitative or qualitative data appropriate for informing an approach, policy, or praxis that addresses some dimension of an important societal issue or challenge. (Critical Thinking)
- develop and present, in terms accessible to an educated public, clear and effective responses to proposed approaches, policies, or practices that address important societal issues or challenges (Communication)
- connect course content with critical reflection on their intellectual, personal, and professional development at UF and beyond. (Connection)

#### **Quest 2 General Education Student Learning Outcomes Assessment**

- Content: Describing and explaining the cross-disciplinary dimensions of climate change is a major component of the activity assigned each week as well as of the semester project (Total = 20% of final grade).
- Critical Thinking: Critical analysis of quantitative data and use of data to inform CC approach or policy is a major component of the activity assigned each week as well as of the semester project (Total = 20% of final grade).
- Communication: Presentation of clear and effective responses to proposed approaches, policies, or practices that address the climate change issue is a major component of the activity assigned each week as well as of the semester project (Total = 20% of final grade).
- Connection: A final component of the semester project will be a self-assessment which will encourage students to connect course content with critical reflection on their intellectual, personal, and professional development (Total = 3% of final grade).

**NOTE:** Assessment rubrics are provided below.

## General Education (Physical Sciences)

### **Objectives (Physical Sciences)**

Physical science courses provide instruction in the basic concepts, theories and terms of the scientific method in the context of the physical sciences. Courses focus on major scientific developments and their impacts on society, science and the environment, and the relevant processes that govern physical systems. Students will formulate empirically-testable hypotheses derived from the study of physical processes, apply logical reasoning skills through scientific criticism and argument, and apply techniques of discovery and critical thinking to evaluate outcomes of experiments.

### **Accomplishment of General Education Objectives (Physical Sciences)**

The general education objectives will be accomplished through the examination of the issue of climate change; science, impacts, and approaches to finding solutions to the 'wicked problem' of climate change. Each week, students will study on-line material on a 'hard science' climate change (*Fundamental*) topic and a 'doing science' or 'science and society' (*Framework*) topic. Then, in the 2-period class meetings each week, the two topics will be brought together and reinforced by doing critical thinking and application activities and discussions.

**NOTE:** A detailed outline the course's week-by-week Topics, Activities, and Learning Objectives is provided below.

### **General Education Student Learning Outcomes (Physical Sciences)**

The general education student learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills and attitudes that students are expected to acquire while completing a general education course at the University of Florida. The SLOs fall into three areas: content, communication and critical thinking.

#### **CONTENT SLOS:**

Students identify, describe, and explain the basic concepts, theories and terminology of natural science and the scientific method within the subject area. Identify, describe, and explain the major scientific developments within the subject area and the impacts on society and the environment. Identify, describe, and explain relevant processes that govern biological and physical systems within the subject area.

AT THE END OF THE COURSE, STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...

- Explain fundamental concepts relating to the scientific method, experimentation, and uncertainty.
- identify and explain the drivers and past record of climate change,
- Detail the major lines of evidence for, and uncertainties relating to, the theory of anthropogenic climate change.
- Explain in depth how climate change affects natural and human systems and how these effects may be reduced.

ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS LEARNING OUTCOME WILL BE ASSESSED THROUGH: weekly on-line quizzes (10% of final grade) as well as in the mid-term exam (15% of final grade). Content mastery is also assessed each week as a portion of the weekly In-class activity and semester project (25% of final grade). (Total = 50% of final grade).

#### **CRITICAL THINKING SLOS:**

Students formulate empirically-testable hypotheses derived from the study of physical processes or living things within the subject area. Apply logical reasoning skills effectively through scientific criticism and argument within the subject area. Apply techniques of discovery and critical thinking effectively to solve experiments and to evaluate outcomes.

AT THE END OF THE COURSE, STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...

- Formulate empirically-testable hypotheses relating to climate change
- Apply the process of critical thinking and scientific inquiry in discovering, understanding, and addressing the challenges of climate change.
- Critically analyze how the biases inherent in different biophysical science methods and theories influence and shape pressing questions about the human condition and the state of our planet.



- Synthesize course lectures and activities to develop a strategy for mitigating climate change and use critical thinking and quantitative skills to evaluate the efficacy of that strategy.

ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE LEARNING OUTCOMES WILL BE ASSESSED THROUGH: completion of exercises, sometimes individually and sometimes in groups, which require them to synthesize and interpret scientific data, and lead them to support or reject existing scientific hypotheses. Hypothesis testing is most explicitly addressed in week 2 of the course in which students formulate their own scientific hypotheses regarding drivers of climate and experiments to test those hypotheses, and in week 4, in which students will critically evaluate data proposed to support established hypotheses. Critical thinking is also assessed as a portion of the semester project (total 30% of final grade).

**COMMUNICATION SLOS:**

Students communicate scientific findings clearly and effectively using oral, written and/or graphic forms. Write effectively in several forms, such as research papers and laboratory reports.

AT THE END OF THE COURSE, STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO....

- Explain key scientific findings in written, oral, and visual formats
- Effectively communicate, in both oral and written form, multi-disciplinary scientific challenges and strategies for addressing the issue of climate change.

ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE LEARNING OUTCOMES WILL BE ASSESSED THROUGH: weekly class meetings, in which students will be required to participate in open-ended thoughtful discussions, within their student groups and then to the class as a whole, regarding the climate change topics and policy implications, the process of scientific discovery, ethics, and applications. Communication skill is assessed each week as a portion of the weekly In-class activity and semester project (total 20% of final grade).

**NOTE:** Assessment rubrics are provided below.

## General Education (International)

### **Objectives (International)**

International courses promote the development of students' global and intercultural awareness. Students examine the cultural, economic, geographic, historical, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world, and thereby comprehend the trends, challenges, and opportunities that affect communities around the world. Students analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate their own and other people's understanding of an increasingly connected world.

### **Accomplishment of General Education Objectives (International)**

The general education objectives will be accomplished through the examination of the issue of climate change; climate science, climate change impacts, and approaches to finding solutions to the 'wicked problem' of climate change. Each week, students will study on-line material on a 'hard science' climate change (Fundamental) topic and a 'doing science' or 'science and society (Framework) topic'. Then, in class meetings each week, the two topics will be brought together and reinforced by doing critical thinking and application exercises and discussions.

**NOTE:** A detailed outline the course's week-by-week Topics, Activities, and Learning Objectives is provided below with International components of each highlighted.

### **General Education Student Learning Outcomes (International)**

The general education student learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills and attitudes that students are expected to acquire while completing a general education course at the University of Florida. The SLOs fall into three areas: content, communication and critical thinking.

#### **CONTENT SLOS:**

Students identify, describe, and explain the historical, cultural, economic, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world.

AT THE END OF THE COURSE, STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...

- Explain the historical, cultural, economic, political factors that contribute to the variation in causation of climate change across nations of the world
- Explain in depth how the effects of climate change vary across nations and with socioeconomic factors and cultures worldwide.
- Identify and describe the values, attitudes and norms that shape the attitudes toward climate change in citizens of various countries.

ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS LEARNING OUTCOME WILL BE ASSESSED THROUGH: weekly on-line quizzes (10% of final grade) as well as in the mid-term exam (15% of final grade). Content mastery is also assessed each week as a portion of the weekly In-class activity and semester project (25% of final grade). (Total = 50% of final grade).

#### **CRITICAL THINKING SLOS:**

Students analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate understandings of an increasingly connected contemporary world.

AT THE END OF THE COURSE, STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...

- Analyze the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs shape the causation and understandings and potential solutions of climate change in various regions of the world.
- Evaluate the cultural, economic, political factors that will influence the efficacy of a proposed climate change mitigation strategy in various regions of the world.

ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE LEARNING OUTCOMES WILL BE ASSESSED THROUGH: completion of exercises, sometimes individually and sometimes in groups each week. Analysis and reflection upon the ways in which

cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate understandings of the issue of climate change is a major component of the activity assigned each week as well as of the semester project (Total = 30% of final grade).

**COMMUNICATION SLOS:**

n/a

**NOTE:** Assessment rubrics are provided below.

## GRADING RUBRICS

For each activity, students are provided with specific instructions for completing the activity and a grading rubric, all within Canvas. The grading rubrics are designed to evaluate the student's mastery of specific content and their ability to produce bodies of work within the guidelines specified in the instructions.

### Rubric for Grading of Weekly In-class Activity

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Rating/Points</u>			
<b>Submission</b>	3.0 pts In-class activity was submitted by the due date.		2.0 pts In-class activity was submitted within 1 day of the due date.	0.0 pts ICA was submitted between 1 and 7 days after the due date.
<b>Content</b>	9.0 pts Demonstrates complete competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used within the subject area and fully describes its cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural dimensions.	6.0 pts Demonstrates some competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used within the subject area and somewhat describes its cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural dimensions.	3.0 pts Demonstrates poor competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used within the subject area and poorly describes its cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural dimensions.	0.0 pts No demonstration of competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used within the subject area and does not describes its cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural dimensions.
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	9.0 pts Carefully, logically, and fully analyzes information from multiple perspectives and develops reasoned solutions to problems within the subject area and beyond. Effectively uses data to inform CC approach or policy.	6.0 pts To some extent, analyzes information from multiple perspectives and develops reasoned solutions to problems within the subject area and beyond. Uses data to inform CC approach or policy to some extent.	3.0 pts Mostly description or summary, without consideration or support of evidence. Generally unfocused and no connections made between ideas and beyond subject area. Little use of data to inform CC approach or policy.	0.0 pts Displays no evidence of engagement with the topic.
<b>Communication</b>	9.0 pts Clearly and effectively communicates knowledge, ideas, and reasoning in forms appropriate to the subject area.	6.0 pts Somewhat clearly and effectively communicates knowledge, ideas, and reasoning in forms appropriate to the subject area.	3.0 pts Poorly communicates knowledge, ideas, and reasoning in forms appropriate to the subject area.	0.0 pts The assignment is unfocused and/or displays little or no degree of completion.
Total = 30 Points				

## Rubric for Grading of Semester Project Final PRESENTATION

### ELEMENT COMPLETION (50 points total)

- \_\_\_/3 pt Title Slide (one slide): title and lists group members,
- \_\_\_/3 pt Introduction (one slide) – presents problem
- \_\_\_/3 pt Detailed proposal outline (one slide)
- \_\_\_/3 pt Well-worded hypothesis and subhypotheses as to the efficacy of the project (one slide)
- \_\_\_/3 pt A method for quantitatively assessing the effectiveness/impact of each hypothesis presented
- \_\_\_/3 pt Equations presented are clear and use an equation editor and all numbers have units
- \_\_\_/3 pt All benefits factored into equations (e.g. if C emissions were reduced, this was monetized)
- \_\_\_/3 pt All data used to solve equations clearly explained and sources given
- \_\_\_/3 pt Citations were made on each slide where facts were used
- \_\_\_/3 pt Quantitative error analysis conducted correctly (not just qualitative list of uncertainties)
- \_\_\_/3 pt Conclusions drawn linked directly to quantitative analysis (hypothesis testing) done
- \_\_\_/3 pt Separate section discussing larger significance provided (importance beyond the scope of the project)
- \_\_\_/3 pt Consideration of project in context of other cultures was made
- \_\_\_/3 pt Bibliography (one slide) including alphabetic listing of all references cited (and no more).
- \_\_\_/3 pt Includes figures on almost every slide to make visually appealing
- \_\_\_/3 pt Text not too small, slides not packed with text
- \_\_\_/2 pt Presentation of material shared equally by group members

Criteria/Score	Outstanding:	Satisfactory:	Unsatisfactory:
<b>CONTENT (P)</b> ___ /30 pts	Complete competence in applying the terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used within the subject area (24-20 pts).	Some competence in applying the terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used within the subject area (20-16 pts).	Poor competence in applying the terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used within the subject area (<16 pts).
<b>CONTENT (Q &amp; N)</b> ___ /30 pts	Completely describes the cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural (economic, political/social) dimensions of the project (24-20 pts).	Somewhat describes the cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural (economic, political/social) dimensions of the project (20-16 pts).	Little or no description of the cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural (economic, political/social) dimensions of the project (<16 pts).
<b>CRITICAL THINKING (P)</b> ___ /30 pts	Very effectively applies logical reasoning skills through scientific criticism and argument within the subject area. Very effectively applies techniques of discovery and critical thinking to solve experiments and to evaluate outcomes (24-20 pts).	Somewhat effectively applies logical reasoning skills through scientific criticism and argument within the subject area. Somewhat effectively applies techniques of critical thinking to solve experiments and to evaluate outcomes (20-16 pts).	Poorly applies logical reasoning skills through scientific criticism and argument within the subject area. Poorly applies techniques of discovery and critical thinking to solve experiments and to evaluate outcomes (<16 pts).
<b>CRITICAL THINKING (Q &amp; N)</b> ___ /30 pts	Thorough consideration of issues from multiple perspectives (cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural), logically analyzes evidence from credible, relevant sources, and develops fully reasoned conclusions and policy responses (24-20 pts).	Considers issues from multiple perspectives (cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural), logically analyzes evidence from credible, relevant sources, and develops reasoned conclusions and policy responses (20-16 pts).	Does not consider issues from multiple perspectives (cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural), or logically analyze evidence from credible, relevant sources, and develop reasoned conclusions or policy responses (<16 pts).
<b>COMMUNICATION</b> ___ /30 pts	Communicates knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively, very polished and practiced (24-20 pts).	Communicates knowledge, ideas, and reasoning, somewhat polished, with some polish & practice (20-16 pts).	Does not communicate ideas and reasoning effectively, not polished or practiced (<16 pts).
<b>Total: ___ /200 Points</b>			

## DETAILED WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**NOTE:** This document outlines the overall and week-by-week Topics, Summary of Activities, and Learning Objectives covered in the course (Climate Change Science and Solutions).

### Overall Course Objectives

This physical science general education course will cover concepts of climate change and science in our modern and global society. It is the aim of this course that by the end, students will be able to:

- Understand the basic facts and uncertainties regarding global climate change, the role of humans in causing it.
- Understand how climate global change affects natural and human systems and its effects vary among nations and with socioeconomic factors and cultures worldwide.
- Apply the process of scientific inquiry in discovering, understanding, and addressing the challenges of climate change.
- Develop and evaluate hypothesis-driven solutions to address climate change through critical thinking and teamwork.
- Effectively communicate multi-disciplinary scientific challenges and strategies for addressing them.

### Week #1

**1) Fundamental Science Topic:** Perceptions of Climate Change, Disciplines of Climate Change

**Framework Topic(s):** Interdisciplinary Science, Science communication

**Skill:** Course search

### **2) Summary:**

This class introduces the idea of collaboration and interdisciplinary science. Students reflect on their perceptions (preconceptions) of climate change and then complete an engineering/design activity called the marshmallow challenge. Student groups create a climate science major curriculum.

**3) Learning Objectives:** *When students complete this lesson they will be able to:*

- describe course objectives and student responsibilities
- reflect on preconceived ideas of climate change
- differentiate among the diverse ways in which climate change must be studied including from many disciplines and multi-cultural multinational perspectives.
- describe aspects of collaboration for creative problem solving and its relationship with climate change and science in general.

### **4) Activity/Assessment**

In-Class Activity: Discussion of climate change interdisciplinary nature includes multinational aspects and the undergraduate major curriculum created by the students likely includes courses with international content

### **5) Assigned Readings**

Leiserowitz, A., Maibach, E., Roser, Renouf, C., Feinberg, G., & Rosenthal, S. (2015). Climate change in the American mind: October, 2015. Yale University and George Mason University. New Haven, CT: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication.

<https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/more-americans-perceive-harm-from-global-warming-survey-finds/>

### Week #2

**1) Fundamental Science Topic:** Climate Drivers, Climate System (Cycling, Feedback, and Thresholds)

**Framework Topic(s):** The Scientific Method

**Skill:** Formulate Hypotheses

### **2) Summary:**

Students learn the basics of the climate system and increase their understanding of the scientific process through the online lectures and readings. Discussion and group activities are used to reinforce the online materials and promote complex understandings of the nature of science. Students think about basic hypothesis about climate change and possible approaches to testing them.

**3) Learning Objectives:** *When students complete this lesson they will be able to:*

- summarize the primary external drivers of Earth's global climate
- analyze global climate as a complex system
- explain the scientific method and give examples of misconceptions about science
- give examples of climate system material exchanges, feedbacks, and tipping points
- apply the scientific method to the question of climate change by generating hypotheses and devising 'experiments' to test them

#### **4) Activity/Assessment**

In-Class Activity: Students ask questions and construct hypotheses about climate change and its effects. They are encouraged to think globally and multi-nationally and cross-culturally.

Science misconceptions discussion: Emphasizes that science is now funded by multinational governments and carried out by teams of multinational scientists

#### **5) Assigned Readings**

*Dire Predictions* Textbook pgs. 6-29.

Understanding Science. 2019. University of California Museum of Paleontology. 3 January 2019, <http://www.understandingscience.org>.

Climate Change 2007: Working Group I: The Physical Science Basis, Chapter 1: Historical Overview of CC, [http://www.ipcc.ch/publications\\_and\\_data/ar4/wg1/en/ch1.html](http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg1/en/ch1.html)

Fudge, D., 2014. Fifty years of J. R. Platt's strong inference. *The Journal of Experimental Biology*, 217: 1202-1204.

### **Week #3**

**1) Fundamental Science Topic:** Climate History

**Framework Topic:** How Science is Done

**Skill:** Excel use, Hypothesis Testing

#### **2) Summary:**

This week, after reviewing climate history, students complete an exercise with real ice core data. After creating and examining several graphs, they are asked to form arguments for or against anthropogenic warming.

**3) Learning Objectives:** *When you complete this lesson students will be able to:*

- explain the different sources of climate records and the applicable timescale and resolution (uncertainties) associated with each
- recount the broad outlines of how climate has varied over Earth history (and the process controlling it)
- realize that climate data collection and sharing is an international activity
- use Excel to examine data (create columns, simple calculations, make graphs)
- understand and draw inferences from graphs of real paleoclimate data
- use paleoclimate data to test some climate change hypotheses
- understand that science is not done in a vacuum but is influenced by many 'real world' factors including funding, publishing, and personal biases

#### **4) Activity/Assessment**

On-line Discussion: Students are asked to think about the value of governmental funding of large multinational scientific efforts to extract paleoclimate records from ice and sediment cores

In-Class activity: in part, examines the 'Early Anthropocene Hypothesis' which involves understanding and discussion of early European and Asian agriculture and settlement history.

#### **5) Assigned Readings**

*Dire Predictions* Textbook pgs. 30-51.

NASA Earth Observatory Website on Paleoclimatology

[http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/Paleoclimatology\\_SedimentCores/](http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/Paleoclimatology_SedimentCores/)

Zimmerman, A.R., 2014. How science is *really* done.

Monnin et al., 2010. Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> Concentrations over the Last Glacial Termination. *Science*. 291: 112-114. DOI: 10.1126/science.291.5501.112.

#### **Week #4**

##### **1) Fundamental Science Topic:** Evidence for Climate Change

**Framework Topic:** Uncertainty/Consensus

**Skill:** Sources/ Critical Thinking

##### **2) Summary:**

This week, after reviewing major lines of evidence supporting CC from lecture (and from last week's assignment), as well as some of the major uncertainties, students will do an exercise in which they come up with arguments and counter-arguments to the anthropogenic global warming hypothesis.

##### **3) Learning Objectives:** *When they complete this lesson, students will be able to:*

- recount the major lines of evidence supporting the theory of anthropogenic global warming (AGW)
- discuss various uncertainties associated with the theory of AGW and their nature
- understand the workings and role of the IPCC
- discuss the role of uncertainty and consensus in shaping scientific debates generally, and AGW specifically.
- discuss a range of counter-arguments to AGW and find and present lines of evidence that would validate or invalidate these counter-arguments
- distinguish between types of sources of information and make proper scientific citation

##### **4) Activity/Assessment**

Students critically think about the AGW argument; finding evidence supporting it, counter-arguments, discuss the method used in source and how it supports the counter-argument. Also, students discuss the biases or assumptions and include proper citation for each source.

##### **5) Assigned Readings**

*Dire Predictions* Textbook pgs. 30-51.

IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) Home page. <http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm>.

Climate Change 2013, The Physical Science Basis, Summary for Policymakers, A report of Working Group I of the IPCC (selected portions; p 4-25, 36-41 and 114-115). <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/>.

Climate change is an uncertain science. By John Howard. *The Telegraph*. 09 Nov 2013.

Sense About Science, Making Sense of Uncertainty, 2013.

<http://www.senseaboutscience.org/resources.php/127/making-sense-of-uncertainty>.

Curry, JA and PJ Webster, 2013. Climate change: no consensus on consensus. *CAB Reviews*, v8.

Doran and Zimmerman, 2009. Examining the Scientific Consensus on Climate Change, *Eos*, v.90 no.3. DOI: 10.1029/2009EO030002.

#### **Week #5**

##### **1) Fundamental Science Topic:** Climate Change and the Weather

**Framework Topic:** Research and Big Data

**Skill:** Test hypotheses using data

##### **2) Summary:**

Students will complete an in-class activity in which they will propose and test hypotheses using weather data in excel. Difficulties with Big Data will be realized. Then, students will learn about the semester project and be assigned to groups according to their strengths.

##### **3) Learning Objectives:** *When you complete this lesson students will be able to:*



- compare and contrast weather and climate
- differentiate between changes to long-term average in climate data and changes to extremes
- describe what it means for conditions/events to be extreme
- realize the meaning of 'big data' and the challenges it presents
- evaluate key strengths individuals may bring to group collaborations
- carry out effective group 'brainstorming'

#### 4) Activity/Assessment

In-Class Activity: Students examine weather data (climate trends) in Florida cities and compare this kind of data with that of averages for different regions of the Earth and global data depictions.

#### 5) Assigned Readings

*Dire Predictions* Textbook pgs. 52-67 & 112-115 & 132-135.

Southeast Climate Consortium's agroclimate website climate fact sheets: Fundamentals of Climate variability and Change <http://agroclimate.org/fact-sheets-climate.php>.

Kitchin., R., Big Data, new epistemologies and paradigm shifts. *Big Data & Society* 2014 1. DOI: 10.1177/2053951714528481.

Kelly, T. (2001). Chapter 4 "The Perfect Brainstorm" in 'The art of innovation: Lessons in creativity from IDEO, America's leading design firm'. New York: Doubleday.

### Week #6

#### 1) Fundamental Science Topic: Future Effects of Climate Change

**Framework Topic:** Models

**Skill:** Hypothesis testing/Model interpretation

#### 2) Summary: Students think about and use climate models to make and test hypotheses

#### 3) Learning Objectives: *When students complete this lesson they will be able to:*

- outline the purpose and types of models used in science generally and climate science specifically
- evaluate the relative degree that difference forcing impact the climate system and global temperatures
- understand how regional/global models are used and can inform national and international climate policy decisions

#### 4) Activity/Assessment

In-Class Activity: Students use output of climate model run scenarios to make arguments that will inform international policy makers

#### 5) Assigned Readings

*Dire Predictions* Textbook pgs. 68-117.

Goosse H., P.Y. Barriat, W. Lefebvre, M.F. Loutre and V. Zunuz, (2008-2010). Introduction to climate dynamics and climate modeling. Online textbook available at <http://www.climate.be/textbook>, Modelling the climate system.

Constructing a Climate Model, 2012 by the National Academy of Sciences. [http://nas-sites.org/climate-change/climatemodeling/page\\_3\\_1.php](http://nas-sites.org/climate-change/climatemodeling/page_3_1.php).

### Week #7

#### 1) Fundamental Science Topic: Ecological Impacts of Climate Change

**Framework Topic:** Team Science

**Skill:** Team Work/Hypothesis Writing

#### 2) Summary:

A group activity provides students with a team science experience. After reading section of a paper on the Amazon, they meet in groups of disciplinary experts. Then experts are separated into interdisciplinary groups that develop then present a research proposal.

#### 3) Learning Objectives: *When you complete this lesson students will be able to:*

- define ecosystems and how ecosystems are linked to climate

- name key impacts of climate change on ecosystems
- understand the role of humans as components of Earth's ecosystems
- appreciate socioeconomic conditions in various regions of the world place differing pressures and demands on ecological systems
- experience the value of team effort and synthesis of different scientific disciplinary perspectives, in many scientific endeavors

#### 4) Activity/Assessment

In-Class Activity: Students consider the *interactions between climate change, humans and the ecological health of the Amazon Rainforest*. Students will also consider/discuss the roles of international teams of research scientists working in Brazil, national policies of Brazil, and lifestyles and cultures of humans living in the region.

#### 5) Assigned Readings

*Dire Predictions* Textbook pgs. 124-131 & 188-189.

Davidson, E.A. et al., 2012. The Amazon basin in transition. *Nature* 481, 321-328. doi:10.1038/nature10717.

Costanza et al., 1997. The value of the world's ecosystem services and natural capital. *Nature* 387:253-260.

Holgate, S.A., 2014. How to Collaborate. *Science*. 10.1126/science.caredit.a1200082

### Week #8

#### 1) Fundamental Science Topic: Human Population/ Consumption

**Framework Topic:** Ethics & Sustainability

**Skill:** Calculations/Units

#### 2) Summary:

Students will learn about how population growth and climate change are linked and how mitigation and adaptation strategies must be made with ethical considerations.

#### 3) Learning Objectives: *When students complete this lesson they will be able to:*

- Describe how resource use combined with population growth varies in different regions of the Earth, along with its effects.
- Evaluate different strategies for how individual countries and their population contribute to CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction goals.
- Realize the implications of our personal lifestyle choices and consumption patterns on the resources that are available to others in different regions of the Earth
- Realize the linkages between ethics and climate change

#### 4) Activity/Assessment

In-Class Discussion: After calculating their carbon footprint (and that of average Americans), students think about and discuss why it differs from that of residents of other countries and cultures.

In-Class Activity - By apportioning future emission scenarios over the 21<sup>st</sup> century among the world's different countries, students come up with a plan to reduce C emissions so that the critical temperature is not reached before 2100. The plan needs to be based on the data, consider various socioeconomic and cultural factors and an ethical framework that can be justified.

In-Class Discussion: We conclude with a discussion of international climate change treaties: Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement

#### 5) Assigned Readings

*Dire Predictions* Textbook pgs. 150-163 & 184-187.

Center for Research on Environmental Decisions. (2009). *The Psychology of Climate Change Communication: A Guide for Scientists, Journalists, Educators, Political Aides, and the Interested Public*. New York.

Global Warming's Six Americas in December 2018. Report by Yale Project on Climate Change Communication and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication.

UNEP (2014) Assessing Global Land Use: Balancing Consumption with Sustainable Supply. A Report of the Working Group on Land and Soils of the International Resource Panel. Bringezu S., Schütz H., Pengue W., O'Brien M., Garcia F., Sims R., Howarth R., Kauppi L., Swilling M., and Herrick J.

## **Week #9**

### **1) Fundamental Science Topic:** Agriculture and Land Use

**Framework Topic:** Communicating about climate change to the public

**Skill:** Working with Google Docs, Communication

**2) Summary:** Consider how we currently feed the world (or don't), what changes to our food system will occur due to CC, and what we can do about it, including, how, through proper communication techniques, we can actually make the necessary changes happen.

**3) Learning Objectives:** *When students complete this lesson they will be able to:*

- Consider competition for land & other natural resources among urban, agricultural and natural systems within the context of increasing population densities and climate change.
- Appreciate how agricultural and foodways practices vary across nations and cultures
- Understand climate-related risks associated with agriculture and ways in which farmers can prepare for and adapt to these changes
- Appreciate the diverse communication strategies required to build adaptive capacity among different audiences.

### **4) Activity/Assessment**

In-Class Activity – Student groups are each assigned a major world commodity crop for which they collect data and then, comparatively, evaluate the role they now play in different regions and cultures, and might play in the future, in supporting humanity.

In-Class Activity: Students will work in groups to develop solutions to simultaneously protect our natural systems, feed growing world populations, and build healthy communities. Student will be encouraged to develop 'food and land' solutions for other regions and cultures. These are presented to the class.

### **5) Assigned Readings**

*Dire Predictions* Textbook pgs. 136-149 & 206-207.

Gardiner, S. M. & Hartzell-Nichols, L., 2012. Ethics and Global Climate Change. *Nature Education Knowledge* 3(10):5.

Rockstrom et al., 2009. A safe operating space for humanity. *Nature* 461: 472-475

Broome, J., 2008. The Ethics of Climate Change. *Scientific American*, **298**, 96-102.

Mata FJ, Onisto LJ, Vallentyne JR (2012) Consumption: the other side of population for development. *Ethics Sci Environ Polit* 12:15-20. <https://doi.org/10.3354/esep00122>.

## **Week #10**

### **1) Fundamental Science Topic:** Energy

**Framework Topic(s):** From Lab to the Real

**Skill:** Communication, Sources

**2) Summary:** Students think about and investigate a range of specific measures that reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and see that they, without too much pain, add up to quite a ways toward the needed reduction (to prevent reaching the critical temp.).

**3) Learning Objectives:** *When students complete this lesson they will be able to:*

- Understand characteristics of different forms of energy (renewable energy and nonrenewable) and their relative contribution in powering the U.S. versus other nation's economy.
- Evaluate the efficacy and feasibility of different actions that could be done to reduce energy consumption (CO<sub>2</sub> emissions)

### **4) Activity/Assessment**

On-line Discussion: Students consider/compare U.S. and China energy and climate policy.

In-Class Discussion: The focus of this week's activity is on the U.S. energy system but we end with a discussion of its implications for the recent agreement between U.S. and China on lowering emissions and compare the U.S. and Chinese energy and climate system and policies.

### 5) Assigned Readings

*Dire Predictions* Textbook pgs. 164-177 & 182.

Project Drawdown Electricity Sector Summary: <https://drawdown.org/solutions/electricity-generation>

Hites, R.A. How To Give a Scientific Talk, Present a Poster, and Write a Research Paper or Proposal, *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 2014, 48, 9960–9964. dx.doi.org/10.1021/es503552t.

Rühl, C., P. Appleby, J. Fennema, A. Naumov, M. Schaffer, Economic development and the demand for energy: A historical perspective on the next 20 years, *Energy Policy*, Volume 50, November 2012, Pages 109-116, ISSN 0301-4215. <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/pdfs/energy-economics/energy-outlook/economic-development-demand-for-energy.pdf>

## Week #11

### 1) Fundamental Science Topic: Built Environment

**Framework Topic:** Effecting Change

**Skill:** Oral presentation, Evaluation and Project Planning, Creative Design

### 2) Summary:

Students present their project outlines, give and receive feedback.

Activity may be 1) project evaluation and planning, or 2) Built Environment Design Activity

### 3) Learning Objectives: *When students complete this lesson they will be able to:*

- Detail the impact of the built environment on climate change
- Describe how modifications to the built environment can reduce climate change
- Demonstrate that individual choices impact carbon emissions and climate
- Prepare a sound oral/visual presentation.
- Accept criticism and suggestions for project improvement.
- Create a plan for project completion

### 4) Activity/Assessment

Students design a sustainable piece of infrastructure (community, building, transportation route, etc.) and surroundings that will help Gainesville mitigate and/or adapt to CC. The design process starts with conceptualization (a sketch perhaps) and then progressively becomes more refined, adding more and more levels of detail. Students must annotate your final product with at least 6 features from LEED categories.

### 5) Assigned Readings

*Dire Predictions* Textbook pgs. 178-199.

Bertaud, A. and Richardson, H.W. (2004), "Transit and density: Atlanta, the United States and Western Europe", in Bae, C. and Richardson, H.W. (Eds), *Urban Sprawl in Western Europe and the United States*, Ashgate, Aldershot, pp. 293-310.

Ewing R, Schmid T, Killingsworth R, Zlot A, Raudenbush S., 2003. Relationship Between Urban Sprawl and Physical Activity, Obesity, and Morbidity. *Am. J. Health Promot.* 2003 Sep-Oct;18(1):47-57.

## Week #12

### 1) Fundamental Science Topic: Environmental Policy: Climate Change

**Framework Topic:** Science in action

**Skill:** Finding/evaluating Sources/Calculation

### 2) Summary:

After a review, students look at and compare different environmental policies.

### 3) Learning Objectives: *When students complete this lesson they will be able to:*

- Compare legal frameworks for international, national, state, and local climate change policy.

- Discuss different categories of CC policy options
- Differentiate between market incentive and regulation.
- Evaluate the strength of different sources of data and build skepticism for all that they read in the press

#### 4) Activity/Assessment

In-Class Activity: Students investigate the details of, present, then compare and contrast in a final discussion, different governmental environmental policies from around that world that have had the greatest effects on mitigating climate change. These include examples from European Union, China, U.N. developing countries, etc.

#### 5) Assigned Readings

*Dire Predictions* Textbook pgs. 200-213.

Curbing climate change: The deepest cuts. *The Economist*, 2014.

<https://www.economist.com/briefing/2014/09/20/the-deepest-cuts>

Nachmany, M. and J. Setzer. Global trends in climate change legislation and litigation 2018 snapshot.

Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment and Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy, 2018. <http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Global-trends-in-climate-change-legislation-and-litigation-2018-snapshot-3.pdf>

### **Week #13**

#### 1) Fundamental Science Topic: Sea Level Rise

**Framework Topic:** Science in the Public Realm

**Skill:** Debate

#### 2) Summary:

Students are divided into stakeholder groups, prepare suggestions for sea level rise policy from the stakeholder perspective, and then role play in a public forum concerning sea level rise policy in Volusia County. This serves as a capstone experience that connects the students' scientific learning to the formation of public policy.

#### 3) Learning Objectives: *When students complete this lesson they will be able to:*

- Explain the mechanisms that cause both global and relative sea level variation.
- Outline the history and causes of sea level variation in the past and predictions for the future.
- Detail the potential impacts of sea level rise and possible societal response strategies in various regions of the U.S. and the world.
- Evaluate the role of science in society, particularly in policy development.
- Describe how public policy on wicked problems such as climate change or sea level rise might best be made and implemented in various regions of the U.S. and the world.

#### 4) Activity/Assessment

In-Class Activity – In this activity, students play the role of different stakeholder groups in making recommendations on sea level rise adaptation policy/regulations to be adopted by a Florida county. While focusing on Florida, this activity leads students to understand how geographic location and socioeconomic factors affect the lives and views of citizens. Students are asked at end to imagine how their policy recommendations might differ were they to be citizens of a different country.

#### 5) Assigned Readings

*Dire Predictions* Textbook pgs. 36-37 & 110-111 & 122-123 & 158-159.

Larson, B., 2009. *Scientizing Politics: The Honest Broker: Making Sense of Science in Policy and Politics* by Roger A.

Pielke, Jr., *Alternatives Journal* 35:2 2009

Miami: How Rising Sea Levels Endanger South Florida, Jeff Goodall, *Rolling Stone*, 2013,

<https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/miami-how-rising-sea-levels-endanger-south-florida-200956/>

Hallegratte, Stephane, Green, Colin, Nicholls, Robert J., and Corfee-Morlot, Jan. 2013. Future flood losses in major coastal cities, *Nature Climate Change*, 3: 802.

### **Semester Project**

Students groups will work as a team to propose, hypothesis and quantitatively evaluate the potential effects of either:

- a) a strategy to mitigate climate change, or
- b) a strategy to adapt to the predicted effects of climate change.

We encourage student groups to consider a local or regional problem and solution - be it state of Florida, Gainesville, or on the UF campus or even in one's dormitory), but it is important that the project also be evaluated from an international and multi-cultural perspective as well. Each group will start with a hypothesis, then work to test the hypothesis and quantitatively evaluate the efficacy of the strategy by weighing the calculated costs against the potential benefits that would result from the adoption of their strategy (climate, human health, economic, etc.) or by comparing the action to a different course of action. At the end of the assignment (in both presentation and paper), students are required to evaluate the efficacy of the project were it to be carried out in other regions of the U.S. and the world. What economic, social or cultural barriers might there be in other locations?

### **Week 14:**

**Group Oral Presentation of Semester Project** - See posted 'Semester Project Student Handout' in the Semester Project Module for details on what information to include.

### **Week 15:**

**Group Written Presentation of Semester Project** - See posted 'Semester Project Student Handout' in the Semester Project Module for details on what information to include. It will include revisions/improvements based upon comments made during the Final Presentation AND some additional elements. In particular, you will provide a more in depth discussion of the broader implications of your work and thought about whether/how/where your project should be nationalized/globalized.

**Submit Individual Assessment** - This will include a self-reflective evaluation of: 1) a recounting of the role that you and others in your group played in completing the semester project, 2) the success of the collaborative efforts of your group, 3) how the course content has affected your intellectual, personal, and professional development.