



ARTS2242

The Politics of Climate Change

Term Two // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Matthew Kearnes	m.kearnes@unsw.edu.au	Mondays 11-12pm, by appointment		

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Environmental Humanities*

Climate change is often understood as primarily a scientific or environmental problem that requires economic or technological solutions. In this course we will explore how climate change is perhaps better understood as a social, cultural and political phenomenon which is remaking the ways in which we understand our relationship with the Earth. How we understand climate, weather, nature and the environment are crucial for understanding contemporary global warming and our responses to it. We will examine the underlying politics of climate change. You will garner a conceptual and methodological toolkit for interpreting and making sense of the social aspects of climate change and the often intense political arguments that surround it. The course explores the history of climate science and the more recent emergence of a global consensus on anthropogenic global warming. The course goes on to consider recent work on abrupt climate change, climate modelling and the politics of climate change adaptation and mitigation technologies. The course draws on a multi-disciplinary framework for understanding the social, historical and political aspects of climate change, with insights from politics, sociology, and science and technical studies (STS). You will be introduced to key areas of contemporary scholarly thinking in the environmental humanities – including political ecology, the sociology of scientific knowledge and contemporary political theory.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Identify historical and political contexts that shape the current debates about climate change
2. Apply a conceptual framework to understand the underlying social and cultural faultlines of climate change
3. Make evidence-based arguments using independently located sources

Teaching Strategies

This course requires students to engage with contemporary sociological and humanities analytical scholarship in exploring and analysing the politics of climate change. It will require reflective and self-critical learning together with a capacity to assemble and synthesise information from a range of sources and disciplinary backgrounds. The course also will require students to apply these insights in a real-world example and to complete a major piece of assessment that examines their capabilities to do this. These objectives will be achieved through lectures, in-depth tutorial discussions, independent research and the preparation of assessment tasks. In order for students to develop the forms of critical reflection necessary for this course, participation in tutorial discussion will be emphasised and is reflected in the assessment schedule.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Short Essay - Discourse Analysis	20%	05/07/2019 11:00 PM	1,2
Short essay - Interpretive Analysis	20%	19/07/2019 11:00 PM	1,2
Short Essay - Narrative Analysis	20%	02/08/2019 11:00 PM	1,2
Final Essay	40%	16/08/2019 11:00 PM	1,2,3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Short Essay - Discourse Analysis

Start date:

Length: 750 words

Details: Students are provided with a contemporary climate change policy document and required to critically examine the discursive framing of the document in an essay of 750 words. Individual written feedback is provided.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Short essay - Interpretive Analysis

Start date:

Length: 750 words

Details: This first essay task is designed to examine students' engagement with interpretive social science approaches to climate change. Students are required to conduct a brief interview with a fellow class member, focused on the public meanings of climate change, to transcribe the interview and provide a written analysis of the social meanings of climate change evident in their subject's responses. The full transcription of the interview is included as an appendix to the paper. The word length for this piece is 750 words. Individual written feedback is provided.

Assessment 3: Short Essay - Narrative Analysis

Start date:

Length: 750 words

Details: Students are required to produce a narrative essay based around a photographic, visual or audio depiction of the climate change. The word length for this piece is 750 words. Individual written feedback is provided.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 4: Final Essay

Start date:

Length: 3000

Details: This assessment is a 3000-word essay. The essay topic is published on the course Moodle site. Individual written feedback is provided. The final essay is the final assessment for attendance purposes.

Attendance Requirements

Attendance of **Lectures, Tutorials** and completion of **online activities** is mandatory in this course. Unexcused absence from more than **20% of Lectures, Tutorials** and completion of **20% of the course online activities** will result in the award a fail grade. In Lecture, Tutorials and online activities you will actively engage with core course content, enabling you to attain the three course learning outcomes:

1. Identify historical and political contexts that shape the current debates about climate change;
2. Apply a conceptual framework to understand the underlying social and cultural faultlines of climate change;
3. Make evidence-based arguments using independently located sources.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 3 June - 7 June	Lecture	Course Introduction & Histories of Climate Change
	Tutorial	Readings available via course leganto site.
	Online Activity	Online activities available via the course moodle site.
Week 2: 10 June - 14 June		No lectures or tutorials - Public Holiday
Week 3: 17 June - 21 June	Lecture	For and Against the Relevance of Climate (Mis)information to Climate Policymaking (Guest Lecture - Dr. Erin Nash)
	Tutorial	Readings available via course leganto site.
	Online Activity	Online activities available via the course moodle site.
Week 4: 24 June - 28 June	Lecture	The social construction of climate science
	Tutorial	Readings available via course leganto site.
	Online Activity	Online activities available via the course moodle site.
Week 5: 1 July - 5 July	Lecture	Conceptualising the politics of climate change
	Tutorial	Readings available via course leganto site.
	Online Activity	Online activities available via the course moodle site.
Week 6: 8 July - 12 July	Lecture	Public narratives of climate change
	Tutorial	Readings available via course leganto site.

	Online Activity	Online activities available via the course moodle site.
Week 7: 15 July - 19 July	Lecture	Financialisation, securitisation and post-politicisation of climate change
	Tutorial	Readings available via course leganto site.
	Online Activity	Online activities available via the course moodle site.
Week 8: 22 July - 26 July	Lecture	Markets in Post-Carbon Politics: Accounting, Disclosure and Regulation - (Guest Lecture - Dr. Declan Kuch)
	Tutorial	Readings available via course leganto site.
	Online Activity	Online activities available via the course moodle site.
Week 9: 29 July - 2 August	Lecture	Going to ground – the land-climate nexus
	Tutorial	Readings available via course leganto site.
	Online Activity	Online activities available via the course moodle site.
Week 10: 5 August - 9 August	Lecture	Democratising climate change
	Tutorial	Readings available via course leganto site.
	Online Activity	Online activities available via the course moodle site.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

The course for ARTS2242 will be Mike Hulme's [Weathered: Cultures of Climate](#) (2016, SAGE). The volume is available as an e-book via the [UNSW library](#), and via the UNSW bookshop.

Weekly readings and other suggested resources are available via Moodle and the course leganto site.

Recommended Resources

Other recomended resources will be listed via the course leganto site.

Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed and students' feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered from students using myExperience. Students are encouraged to complete their surveys by accessing the personalised web link via the Moodle course site.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteletsupport@unsw.edu.au. Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

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