

University of Southern Mississippi  
Department of Political Science, International Development and International Affairs

**IDV 873 Political Economy of Global Climate Change**

Fall 2008

Synchronous Chat 7:00-9:00 p.m. Wednesday (central)

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**Course Description:**

This course will focus on the impact of global warming on economic and social development. The objectives of the course, beyond providing an introduction to the political institutions and scientific evidence of climate change, include the following: analyzing the international agreements related to climate change; studying the current national policies related to climate change; and understanding the economics and political economy of proposed solutions to climate change. Finally, we will place all of these issues within the context of sustainable development.

**Course goals:**

This course is designed with the following goals:

- To teach the students how to access, read and debate concepts relating to the role of environmental issues in the process of economic development.
- To teach the projected impact of climate change and the impact of policies proposed to curb global warming on different developing countries and how these issues relate to sustainable development.
- To teach students how to analyze the efficacy of proposed solutions to global climate change.
- To teach students the science, economics and policies of global climate change.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students will achieve the following outcomes by the end of the term:

- Learn how to find relevant scholarly works on various scientific evidence and policy analysis related to climate change.
- Learn how to read critically to support, refute, and critique existing concepts, theories, evidence and models of climate change in a scholarly fashion.
- Learn how to read and interpret empirical evidence related to climate change.
- Learn how to write a scholarly paper with associated references debating current issues surrounding sustainable development or climate change.

## Required Readings

There are four required books that make up the bulk of the reading for this class. Additionally, there are several articles that you will be able to download via Blackboard.

Griffen, James. 2003. *Global Climate Change: The Science, Economics and Politics*. Edward Elgar. ISBN 1843761904

Stern, Nicholas. 2007. *The Economics of Climate Change: the Stern Review*. 712 pages  
Cambridge University Press ISBN: 0521700809

Scott Barrett, *Environment and Statecraft: The Strategy of Environmental Treaty-Making*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.

Scott Barret, *Why Cooperate?: The Incentive to Supply Global Public Goods* Oxford University Press, 2007.

## Course Requirements

This course will use Wimba's Liveclassroom environment for the online portion of the class. You will be required to learn how to use this technology and test your equipment, so that you can fully participate in the online discussions.

The most substantial aspect of this course will be an individual project that will include writing a final paper and providing a presentation. Presentations will be evaluated in part by the quality of discussion that they are able to stimulate.

## Grading Scale

A=93-100%

A-=90-92%

B+=88-89%

B=83-87%

B-=80-82%

C+=78-79%

C=73-77%

C-=70-72%

F=69% or less

## COURSE ASSESSMENT

5 %	Discussion Questions/ Asynchronous chat
10 %	Synchronous chat
15 %	Book Review of <i>Why Cooperate?</i>
10%	Reaction papers
10%	Presentation
50%	Paper Project

**Assessment of Research Paper Project**

You will receive a grade on each portion of the paper outlined below (B.1-6). The breakdown of the grade will be as follows Proposal 5%; Literature Review 10%; Model Description 10% First Draft 15%; Final Draft 60%. These constituent parts will then be averaged in order to determine the overall grade for the project, which counts towards 50% of your final grade.

## Research Paper

### A. Paper Specifications

The paper should be 20-25 pages. The paper must be typed, double-spaced with one inch margins all around. Careful and complete footnoting of all quotations and paraphrasing is essential. Any reasonable manner for citations is acceptable including Chicago, APA, or you can follow the style used in an economics journal.

### B. Calendar of Requirements

1. Proposal: Submit a copy of this written statement by **September 14<sup>th</sup>**. The statement should include
  - a. A statement of the problem or question with which your paper will deal.
  - b. A brief topic outline that shows how you intend to organize your paper; and
  - c. A preliminary bibliography of books and journal articles you plan to use in your research. Write full, clear citations, so that I can help you with sources.
2. Literature Review. Due **October 5<sup>th</sup>**. You need to summarize and synthesize the most important sources on your topic. This portion of the paper will be 3-5 pages long and should tie in to your overall thesis.
3. Model Description Due **October 26<sup>th</sup>**. You will need to submit a full description of the economic model that you propose to use in your paper. This model can be a mathematical model, a graphical model, or a conceptual model. This description should be complete and demonstrate the model's appropriateness for the question you are attempting to address. Your description should be 1-2 pages long.
4. First draft of paper. Due **November 16<sup>th</sup>**. A copy of a complete, typed draft with footnotes and bibliography, is to be submitted. You should think of this as a **third** draft rather than a first draft. It should be spell checked, and include an introduction and conclusion.
5. Final draft of paper. Due **November 30<sup>th</sup>**
6. Paper presentation. The formal presentation of your paper will take place during the final in person session. You can use PowerPoint or overheads, but some form of visual aids must be used.

### C. Grading

You will receive a grade on each portion of the paper outlined above (B.1-6). The breakdown of the grade will be as follows Proposal 5%; Literature Review 10%; Model Description 10% First Draft 15%; Final Draft 60%. These constituent parts will then be averaged in order to determine the overall grade for the project, which counts towards 50% of your final grade.

### Late Penalties

All deadlines must be met. Failure to do so will result in grade penalties. If the proposal, literature review, model, or final draft is late, a 1/3 grade penalty is imposed for the first day. Each additional day raises the penalty by 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of a letter grade. However, you do have 2 grace days that can be used at any point in the semester.

First draft and final draft submission deadline: if either of these is late, a **one letter-grade** penalty is imposed for the first day. Each additional day raises the penalty by 1/3 grade.

## Reaction Papers

These papers are based upon a particular theme of the readings. There are three papers listed, due throughout the semester; however, you only need to turn in two. If you choose to turn in the other one on its due date, you

will receive your highest two grades. Reaction papers should be 2-3 pages typed (double spaced) and should use the readings as a point of departure. These papers are not only summaries; they should be essays related to the readings and incorporating some major theme that is discussed in the readings. All papers are due at 8:00 p.m. central time on the date listed below.

The model for your reaction paper should be an Op-Ed in a major paper. It should be roughly 800 words, on a single topic that is current, but relates to the readings from class.

**Reaction paper due dates**

Reaction Paper #1: September 21<sup>st</sup>

Reaction Paper #2: October 12<sup>th</sup>

Reaction Paper #3: November 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Topics Covered**

I. The Science and International Institutions of Climate Change

II. Economics of Climate Change

III. Sustainable Development in a Changing Climate

**Synchronous Chat—Discussion Questions**

This course will include a seminar-style discussion of the books and papers during a synchronous chat each week. You are expected to read the article or book ahead of time and submit two discussion questions each Monday on the readings to be discussed for that week. These discussion questions can ask for clarification, to make a general or specific comment about the readings, or to extend upon an idea from the readings. You should submit at least one discussion question per week that is not simply a clarification question. If you have a lot of clarification questions, feel free to post them all, but at least one question should try to synthesize the information. Here is an example of a discussion question from a class on the economics of the Middle East.

I finished reading the article about Saudi Arabia, and I found it kind of optimistic. I read the book "La vie après le pétrole", of Jean Luc Wingert and Jean Laherrere, which is a lot more pessimistic. It is in French and I didn't bring the book here, but I remember that the authors were talking about the Hubbert's peak, which claims that the oil production will reach its peak before 2010 at a probability of 70%. It also talks about OPEC countries cheating on their production and on their reserves: they pretend having the same reserves each year, which is almost impossible, because it means that they are discovering exactly what they are producing.

Are the French more pessimistic -as always-, or is it true?

Your questions will be the starting point for the synchronous chat on Wednesday nights, so be sure to read and think about your classmates' questions before Wednesday. Post your questions to WebCT by 8:00 p.m. Monday night.

**DISABILITY STATEMENT:**

Disability Statement: "If a student has a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical impairments, or chronic health disorders. Students should contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. Box 8568; Telephone (601) 266-5024; TTY (601) 266-6837; Fax (601) 266-6035."

**PLAGIARISM/INTEGRITY STATEMENT:**

Plagiarism/Integrity Statement: Integrity is of the highest importance in the academic community and at The University of Southern Mississippi. Students are expected to conduct themselves with complete honesty and integrity. Nothing less is acceptable. Please refer to the "Code of Student Conduct" in the Student Handbook for greater detail.

Offenses involving academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following:

- cheating on quizzes or examinations
- computer dishonesty
- plagiarism
- grade falsification
- collusion

In the event of student dishonesty, the instructor may award failing grades either on the pertinent assignment or for the course; and, at his/her discretion, report the student to the office of the Dean of Students for possible judicial proceedings under the University's Code of Student Conduct.

Faculty members are expected to enforce rigorously the University's Academic Honesty Policy.

For further information on Academic Honesty, please refer to the current Bulletin or to the Student Handbook. Additionally, the University library provides a Web site that reviews the topic of plagiarism at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/research/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php>. Students are encouraged to review the information on this site.

Students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty as outlined in the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty will result in the grade of a "0" on the assignment or for the entire course, and/or the student may be reported to the Vice President for Academic Affairs for further action.

#### **USM NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:**

USM Non-discrimination Policy Statement: The University of Southern Mississippi offers to all persons equal access to educational, programmatic and employment opportunities without regard to age, sex, religion, color, national origin, Vietnam era veteran status or disability status. These provisions are pursuant to applicable federal and state regulations." Inquiries concerning discrimination should be directed to the following: Office of Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity 221 Weathersby Hall The University of Southern Mississippi Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39406-5168 601-266-6618 TTY: 601-266-6872 This non-discrimination policy protects students whenever they are involved in activities related to USM, both on and off campus.

## Schedule of Topics and Readings by Subject

Week 1---August 22<sup>nd</sup> **In-person**  
*Global Climate Change Introduction*

"The Heat Is On: A Special Report on Climate Change." *The Economist*, September 9-15, 2006.

McKibben, Bill. "450 Ways to stop climate change" *Foreign Policy*; May/Jun2007 Issue 160, p38-39,

Week 2—August 27<sup>th</sup>

*Science of Climate Change I*

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change* (Contribution of Working Group I to the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), J. T. Houghton, L. G. Mera Filho, B. A. Callander, N. Harris, A. Kattenberg and K. Maskel, eds., Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Karl, Thomas R., and Kevin E. Trenberth. "Modern Global Climate Change." *Science* 302, no. 5651 (2003): 1719-1723.

Week 3— September 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Politicization of Global Warming Science*

Aaron M. McCright; Riley E. Dunlap (2000). "Challenging Global Warming as a Social Problem: An Analysis of the Conservative Movement's Counter-Claims" *Social Problems*, Vol. 47, No. 4. (Nov., 2000), pp. 499-522.

Griffen, Chs 1-3

Week 4—September 10<sup>th</sup>

*Political Institutions of Climate Change*

Climate Change Secretariat. *Caring for Climate: A Guide to the Climate Change Convention and the Kyoto Protocol*. Bonn, Germany: Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC), 2005, pp. 5-36. ISBN: 9789292190002.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. "Summary for Policymakers." In *Climate Change 2001: Synthesis Report*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2001. ISBN: 9780521015073.

Week 5—September 17<sup>th</sup>  
*Political Institutions II*

Jacoby, Henry, and David Reiner. "Getting Climate Policy on Track after The Hague: An Update." Chapter 15 in *The Global Governance Reader: Concepts and Issues*. Edited by R. Wilkinson. New York, NY: Routledge, 2005, pp. 274-290. ISBN: 9780415332071.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Twelfth Session of the Conference of Parties to the UN FCCC Second Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. Washington, DC: UN FCCC, 2006.

Skolnikoff, E. B. "Same Science, Differing Policies." MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, Report No. 22, 1997.

Week 6—September 24<sup>th</sup>  
*Statecraft and Negotiated Solutions*

Barrett, Ch. 11-15

Week 7—October 1<sup>st</sup>  
*Basics of Environmental Economics*

Ronald Coase, 1960. "The Problem of Social Cost" *The Journal of Law and Economics* Volume 3 (October).

Don Fullerton and Robert Stavins, 1998. "How Economists See the Environment" *Nature*, 395:6701.

Peter Wilcoxon and Warwick J. McKibbin, "The Role of Economics in Climate Change Policy," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, v16 n2, Spring 2002, pp 107-129

Week 8—October 8<sup>th</sup>  
*Economics of Green House Gas Trading*

Schelling, T (1992). Some economics of global warming. *American Economic Review*, Vol 82, No. 1, pp. 1-16.

U.S. Congressional Budget Office. [\*The Economics of Climate Change: A Primer\*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Congressional Budget Office, 2003, chapters 1, 3, and 4. ISBN: 9781410208309.

Weyant, J. "Economic Models: How They Work and Why Their Results Differ." In *Climate Change: Science, Strategies and Solutions*. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill Academic Publishers, 2001. ISBN: 9789004122765.

Week 9—October 15<sup>th</sup>  
*Economics of the Global Commons*

U.S. Congressional Budget Office. [\*The Economics of Climate Change: A Primer\*](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Congressional Budget Office, 2003, chapter 3. ISBN: 9781410208309.

Callan, Scott J., and Janet M. Thomas. *Environmental Economics and Management*. Mason, OH: South-Western College Pub, 2006, chapter 3. ISBN: 9780324320671.

Week 10— October 22<sup>nd</sup>

*Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Developing Countries*

Babiker, Mustafa, John Reilly, and Henry Jacoby. "The Kyoto Protocol and Developing Countries." *Energy Policy* 28, no. 8 (2000): 525-36.

Edmonds, J., J. Roop, and M. Scott. "Technological Change and Its Effects on Mitigation Costs." In *Climate Change: Science, Strategies and Solutions*. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill Academic Publishers, 2001. ISBN: 9789004122765.

Week 11—October 29<sup>th</sup>

*Regional Effects*

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. "Summary for Policymakers." In *Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2001, pp. 1-17. ISBN: 9780521015004.

Comiso, Josefino, and Claire Parkinson. "[Satellite-observed Changes in the Arctic](#)." *Physics Today* 57, no. 8 (2004): 38-44.

Wolff, Eric. "Whither Antarctic Sea Ice." *Science* 302, no. 5648 (2003): 1164. Whitfield, John. "Too Hot to Handle." *Nature* 425 (2003): 338-339.

Week 12—November 5<sup>th</sup>

*Social Effects*

Chandler "Climate change mitigation in developing countries. Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa, and Turkey"

Michael A. Toman, Ujjayant Chakravorty, Shreekanth Gupta, Editors, 2003.  
*India and Global Climate Change: Perspectives on Economics and Policy from a Developing Country* RFF Press

"Singapore's Climate Change Policy: The Limits of Learning." By: Hamilton-Hart, Natasha. *Contemporary Southeast Asia: A Journal of International & Strategic Affairs*, Dec2006, Vol. 28 Issue 3, p363-384,

Week 13—November 12<sup>th</sup>

*Sustainable Development I*

World Development Report 2003. "Chapter 3, Institutions for Sustainable Development." On line <http://econ.worldbank.org/wdr>

SustainAbility. 2003. "The 21<sup>st</sup> Century NGO." <http://www.sustainability.com>

Week 14—November 19<sup>th</sup>  
*Sustainable Development II*

Hecht, Alan D. 1999. "The Triad of Sustainable Development: Promoting Sustainable Development in Developing Countries." *Journal of Environment & Development*, June, 8.2, 111-132.

Week 15—November 26<sup>th</sup>  
*Sustainable Development III*

World Bank. 2003. *World Development Report 2003: Sustainable Development in a Dynamic World*. New York: Oxford University Press. On line <http://econ.worldbank.org/wdr>

World Business Council for Sustainable Development and UNIDO. 2002. *Developing Countries and Technology Cooperation*.

**November 30<sup>th</sup> Papers due**

Week 16: December 5<sup>th</sup> **In-Person Research Presentations**