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OFFICE HOURS: SCI D333  
Tues/Thurs 10:00am-11:00am

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

General scientific agreement about the causes and likely effects of climate change have not prevented disagreement about how to mitigate or adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. We will seek to understand the political dynamics at work around the issue and the interaction between politics and policy. Our focus is on how groups attempt to resolve an issue of potentially grave importance when there is significant disagreement about what to do. We focus on what political science can teach us about how political systems answer questions that involve competing and conflicting values such as 'how much does global warming matter' and 'where should concerns about global warming rank among other issues we face.'

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### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will ...

- explain how groups seek to influence climate policies.
  - explain how features of the political process shape *what* climate policies are enacted.
  - explain how features of the political process shape *how* climate policies are enacted.
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### GRADE ALLOCATION

Assignment	Points
Class Participation	150
Exam	275
Writing Assignment	275
<b>Total</b>	<b>700</b>

<b>A</b>	700 - 651	<b>C+</b>	560 - 541
<b>A-</b>	650 - 631	<b>C</b>	540 - 511
<b>B+</b>	630 - 611	<b>C-</b>	510 - 491
<b>B</b>	610 - 581	<b>D+</b>	490 - 456
<b>B-</b>	580 - 561	<b>D</b>	455 - 421
		<b>F</b>	420 - 0

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### REQUIRED MATERIALS

#### FOR PURCHASE.

Nordhaus, William. 2013. *The climate casino: Risk, uncertainty, and economics for a warming world*. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press. ISBN: 978-0300212648.

Cullenward, Danny and David G. Victor. 2020. *Making climate policy work*. Medford, Massachusetts: Polity Press. ISBN: 978-1509541805.

**SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS.** All materials besides the required texts are distributed through the UWSP learning management software (**Canvas**).

## COURSE SCHEDULE

week 1 01.24 – 01.28	<p><b>TOPIC:</b> Climate change and environmentalism</p> <p><b>CANVAS:</b> Roberts, David. Jan. 27, 2018. “Reckoning with climate change will demand ugly tradeoffs from environmentalists – and everyone else.” <i>Vox</i>.</p>
week 2 01.31- 02.04	<p><b>TOPIC:</b> Structural basis of climate change</p> <p><b>CANVAS:</b> Victor, David. 2011. “Chapter 2: Why global warming is such a hard problem to solve,” in <i>Global Warming Gridlock: Creating More Effective Strategies for Protecting the Planet</i>. New York: Cambridge University Press, p. 39-57.</p>
week 3 02.07- 02.11	<p><b>TOPIC:</b> Climate change as a policy issue</p> <p><b>CANVAS:</b> Moser, Stephanie and Silke Kleinhuckelkotten. 2018. "Good intents, but low impacts: Diverging importance of motivational and socioeconomic determinants explaining pro-environmental behavior, energy use, and carbon footprint." <i>Environment and Behavior</i>, 50(6): 626-650.</p>
week 4 02.14- 02.18	<p><b>TOPIC:</b> Treaty structure 1</p> <p><b>CANVAS:</b> PBS. 2007. “Hot Politics,” <i>Frontline</i>.</p> <p><b>CANVAS:</b> Victor, David. 2011. “Chapter 3: Explaining diplomatic gridlock: What went wrong?,” in <i>Global Warming Gridlock: Creating More Effective Strategies for Protecting the Planet</i>. New York: Cambridge University Press, p. 208-237.</p>
week 5 02.21- 02.25	<p><b>TOPIC:</b> Treaty structure 2</p> <p><b>CANVAS:</b> Roberts, David. Dec. 15, 2015. “The conceptual breakthrough behind the Paris climate treaty.” <i>Vox</i>.</p> <p><b>CANVAS:</b> UNEP. 2020. “Executive Summary,” in <i>The Emissions Gap Report 2020</i>. United Nations Environment Programme.</p>
week 6 02.28- 03.04	<p><b>TOPIC:</b> U.S. public opinion</p> <p><b>TEXT:</b> Nordhaus, <i>Climate Casino</i>. Ch. 25-26 (p. 303-326)</p>
week 7 03.07- 03.11	<p><b>TOPIC:</b> Electoral dynamics</p> <p><b>CANVAS:</b> Lizza, Ryan. Oct. 11, 2010. “As the world burns: How the Senate and the White House missed their best chance to deal with climate change.” <i>The New Yorker</i>.</p> <p><b>CANVAS:</b> Regan, Patrick M. 2015. “Copenhagen: The Climate Change Summit” in <i>The politics of global climate change</i>. New York: Routledge: 31-54.</p>
week 8 03.14- 03.18	<p><b>EXAM</b></p>
03.21- 03.25	<p><b>SPRING BREAK</b></p>
week 9 03.28- 04.01	<p><b>TOPIC:</b> Carbon pricing</p> <p><b>TEXT:</b> Nordhaus, <i>Climate Casino</i>. Ch. 6, 12 (p. 69-77, 135-146)</p>

week 10 04.04- 04.08	<b>TOPIC:</b> Carbon pricing
	<b>TEXT:</b> Nordhaus, <i>Climate Casino</i> . Ch. 15, 18 (p. 169-181; 205-220)
week 11 04.11- 04.15	<b>TOPIC:</b> Carbon pricing
	<b>TEXT:</b> Nordhaus, <i>Climate Casino</i> . Ch. 19-20 (p. 220-243)
	<b>CANVAS:</b> Rabe, Barry G. 2010. "The 'impossible dream' of carbon taxes: Is the 'best answer' a political non-starter?" in <i>Greenhouse Governance: Addressing climate change in America</i> . Brookings Press: 126-153.
week 12 04.18- 04.22	<b>TOPIC:</b> Regulation
	<b>TEXT:</b> Cullenward and Victor, <i>Making climate policy work</i> . Ch. 1-2 (p. 1-30; 31-51)
week 13 04.25- 04.29	<b>TOPIC:</b> Regulation
	<b>TEXT:</b> Cullenward and Victor, <i>Making climate policy work</i> . Ch. 3-4 (p. 52-69; 70-86)
week 14 05.02- 05.06	<b>TOPIC:</b> Regulation
	<b>TEXT:</b> Cullenward and Victor, <i>Making climate policy work</i> . Ch. 5-6 (p. 87-102; 103-118)
week 15 05.09- 05.13	<b>TOPIC:</b> The role of markets
	<b>TEXT:</b> Cullenward and Victor, <i>Making climate policy work</i> . Ch.8 (p. 148-173)
	<b>TEXT:</b> Nordhaus, <i>Climate Casino</i> . Ch. 22 (p. 259-273)
week 16 05.16- 05.20	<b>FINAL EXAM PERIOD</b>
	Writing Assignment Due

## POLICIES

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** All UWSP policies regarding academic misconduct (e.g., plagiarism) are defined in [Chapter 14](#) of *UWSP Community Bill of Rights and Responsibilities*. Violations may result in a failing grade for the course or disciplinary sanctions by the University.

**EQUAL ACCESS:** If you have a disability requiring classroom accommodation, please contact UWSP [Disability Services Office](#) with your documentation as early as possible in the semester. They will notify me confidentially of the accommodations.