

ECON 396AW/GEOG 396AM
Climate Change Policy
Fall 2018

Instructor: Brett Dolter
Class time: 8:30 – 9:45 am
Classroom: ED 312
Office hours: Thursdays 2:30 – 4:00 pm or by appointment
Email: Brett.Dolter@uregina.ca

Course Description

The threat of climate change is motivating governments around the world to pursue policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In this course we will explore climate change policies enacted in Canada and around the world. You will analyze climate change policies in terms of environmental effectiveness, economic efficiency, impacts on the distribution of wealth, and political acceptability. This course will prepare you to work in government agencies specializing in climate change policy and to conduct climate change policy research.

Graded Course Components:

1. Reading Summary and Discussion (10%)

Each class will begin with a review and discussion of the week's readings. Each student will select a reading at the beginning of the semester and prepare a summary of the reading to share with the class. This summary will be prepared in briefing note format (a template will be provided) and completed summaries will be posted to UR Courses. On the assigned day of your reading I will ask you to highlight the main points covered in the reading in a 5-8 minute presentation (slides are encouraged). Following each presentation, I will ask you to lead discussion of the reading for 2-5 minutes (it is best to think of questions to ask your fellow students). **Weight: 10 marks (5 marks for written summary, 5 marks for presentation and ability to lead discussion).**

2. Policy Debate (25%)

We will be covering several policy topics in this course that are subject to debate. I have selected eight debate topics and proposed resolutions relating to each one (see course reading list and topics). Your job is to select one of these debates, pick a side, and argue in favour of your position. There are two components to this assignment worth a total weight of **25 marks**:

- a) **Position Summary** - First, you must write a summary of your position that is no more than 4 pages in length, double-spaced at 12-point font. In this summary you should refer to the literature and assigned readings that support or contradict your position. Your written position summary will be posted on UR Courses to be shared with the rest of the class. This summary is due **at least seven days before your scheduled debate. Weight: 15 marks**
- b) **Policy Debate** - Second, you must present and defend your position in class. We will use the Lincoln-Douglas debate style (for an explanation of the format see: <http://www.csun.edu/~dgv61315/debformats.html>). Those speaking in favour of the resolution are the '*affirmative*' side and those speaking against the resolution are the '*negative*' side. Each presenter will be given a total of 13 minutes to present and defend their position, and to examine and offer a rebuttal of the position argued by the opposing side. **Weight: 10 marks.** Of these marks **5 marks** will be graded by the Professor, and **5 marks** will be graded by your peers. For the peer grading component, I will throw out the highest and lowest scores and take an average of the remaining scores provided by your peers.

3. Assignments (10%)

Two short assignments must be completed over the course of the semester. **Weight: 10 marks**

4. Climate Change Policy Analysis Case Study (45%)

Select a climate policy that has been initiated within Saskatchewan, Canada, or another jurisdiction, or that you would like to see initiated. Write an essay of not more than 12 pages (12 pt. font, double-spaced, excluding references) that summarizes the policy and evaluates it based on: environmental effectiveness, economic efficiency, distributional equity, and political acceptability. This case study will be built in several steps:

- A **case study proposal** of 150-250 words is due **Thursday October 4th, 2018 by 8:00 pm CST**. This proposal should outline the policy you are focusing on and your preliminary analysis of the policy. **Weight: 5%.**
- A **literature review** of not more than 4 pages (12 pt. font, double-spaced, excluding references) is due **Thursday November 1st, 2018 by 8:00 pm CST**. The literature review should summarize academic findings relevant to your policy topic. It should summarize at least three articles published in peer-reviewed academic journals (if you are unsure if an article is peer-reviewed please just ask me). **Weight: 10 marks.**
- The **final case study essay** of not more than 12 pages (12 pt. font, double-spaced, excluding references) is due **by 12 noon CST on December 18th, 2018. Weight: 30 marks.**

Total Weight: 45 marks. Please submit the term paper proposal, literature review and final case study essays through UR Courses email. Late papers will be deducted **20% per day.**

5. Participation (10%)

Students are expected to prepare for class by reading the assigned readings and participating in class discussion. Students receive up to 5 marks for attendance and up to 5 marks for participation within class. **Weight: 10 marks**

General decorum:

We live in an age of distraction. The classroom is an opportunity to escape digital distraction and focus on engaging with fellow students and the instructor to grapple with challenging concepts. For that reason, smartphones, tablets, laptops and other electronic devices are not to be used in class unless a student has signed an *Electronics Limited Use* contract. Terms of use include refraining from texting, emailing, and use of social media during class time. *Electronics Limited Use* contracts can be signed by visiting the course instructor during office hours.

Plagiarism Policy:

Students are expected to **complete assignments on their own**. Copying from another student is **plagiarism** and will lead to disciplinary action. Each instance of plagiarism will be recorded on your student record. First offences lead to receiving zero on an assignment or examination. Multiple instances of plagiarism can result in expulsion from the University of Regina. For a clear explanation of plagiarism please review the material at this link:

<https://www.uregina.ca/arts/student-resources/avoiding-academic-misconduct/plagiarism.html>

To understand the penalties associated with plagiarism please review the guidelines for punishing plagiarism available at this link:

<https://www.uregina.ca/arts/student-resources/avoiding-academic-misconduct/penalty-guidelines.html>.

Remember that working through assignments on your own helps you to learn and master the course material. **You are only cheating yourself** if you do not complete the assignments independently.

Course Schedule

Date	Class #	Topic	Assignment Due
Sept 6, 2018	1	What is Climate Change? Introduction to the Course	
Sept 11, 2018	2	Climate Change Global Impacts – Film Screening	
Sept 13, 2018	3	Climate Change Impacts on Saskatchewan	
Sept 18, 2018	4	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Sources and Sinks	
Sept 20, 2018	5	Kaya Identity: Drivers of GHG Emissions Growth	
Sept 25, 2018	6	Economic Efficiency I: Externalities and The Economics of Pollution Control	
Sept 27, 2018	7	Economic Efficiency II: In Class Exercise - Cap and Trade Market	Assignment 1 Kaya Identity
Oct 2, 2018	8	Economic Efficiency III: Carbon Pricing Explained	
Oct 4, 2018	9	Distributional Equity	Case Study Proposal
Oct 9, 2018	10	In Class Exercise	
Oct 11, 2018	11	Political Acceptability	
Oct 16, 2018	12	Economic Modelling of Climate Policy	
Oct 17, 2018	13	Types of GHG Reduction Policies Enacted in Canada	
Oct 23, 2018	14	Saskatchewan's Climate Change Plan	
Oct 25, 2018	15	Cities and Climate Change	
Oct 30, 2018	16	Cleaning Up the Electricity Sector	
Nov 1, 2018	17	Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)	Literature Review
Nov 6, 2018	18	NO CLASS	
Nov 8, 2018		NO CLASS Due to Fall Break	
Nov 13, 2018	19	Meeting the 1.5 Degree Target Without Negative Emission Technologies	Assignment 2 Levelized Cost
Nov 15, 2018	20	Carbon Pricing and Competitiveness	
Nov 20, 2018	21	Oil Pipelines and Climate Change	Debate #1 & #2 Position Papers
Nov 22, 2018	22	Demand-based GHG Emissions Accounting	Debate #3 & #4 Position Papers
Nov 27, 2018	23	IN-CLASS POLICY DEBATES #1 & #2	Debate #5 & #6 Position Papers
Nov 29, 2018	24	IN-CLASS POLICY DEBATES #3 & #4	Debate #7 & #8 Position Papers
Dec 4, 2018	25	IN-CLASS POLICY DEBATES #5 & #6	
Dec 6, 2018	26	IN-CLASS POLICY DEBATES #7 & #8	
Dec 18, 2018		FINAL PAPER DUE BY 12 NOON	Final Paper by 12 noon CST