

ARTS2242

The Politics of Climate Change

Term 2, 2022



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

| Name | Email | Availability | Location | Phone |
|-----------------|--|----------------|-------------------|--------|
| Matthew Kearnes | m.kearnes@unsw.edu.au | By appointment | 365, Morven Brown | x51010 |

School Contact Information

School of Humanities & Languages

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

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

Tel: 02 9348 0406

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.



Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous [UNSW's Indigenous strategy](#)

Course Details

Units of Credit 6

Summary of the Course

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 task | Weight | Due Date | Course Learning Outcomes Assessed |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Short essay - Discourse Analysis | 30% | 01/07/2022 11:00 PM | 1, 2 |
| 2. Short Essay - Narrative Analysis | 30% | 05/08/2022 11:00 PM | 1, 2 |
| 3. Final Essay | 40% | 19/08/2022 11:00 PM | 1, 2, 3 |

Assessment 1: Short essay - Discourse Analysis

Assessment length: 1000 words

Due date: 01/07/2022 11:00 PM

This first essay task (ca. 1,000 words) is designed to examine students' engagement with interpretive social science approaches to climate change. Students are required to conduct a discourse analysis of climate change, focused on a policy document or popular representation of climate change.

Individual written feedback is provided.

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

Additional details

Assessment description available via Moodle.

Assessment 2: Short Essay - Narrative Analysis

Assessment length: 1000 words

Due date: 05/08/2022 11:00 PM

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 1,000 words.

Individual written feedback is provided.

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

Additional details

Assessment description available via Moodle.

Assessment 3: Final Essay

Assessment length: 3000

Due date: 19/08/2022 11:00 PM

This assessment is a 2,000-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.

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

Additional details

Assessment description available via Moodle.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

| Date | Type | Content |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Week 1: 30 May - 3 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: 6 June - 10 June | Lecture | The social construction of climate change |
| | Tutorial | Readings available via course leganto site. |
| | Online Activity | Online activities available via the course moodle site. |
| Week 3: 13 June - 17 June | Lecture | Conceptualising the politics of climate change <i>Public Holiday - lecture will be released asynchronously</i> |
| | Homework | No tutorial this week - Public Holiday |
| | Online Activity | Online activities available via the course moodle site. |
| Week 4: 20 June - 24 June | Lecture | Counting the consensus: the politics of Climate (Mis)information |
| | Tutorial | Readings available via course leganto site. |
| | Online Activity | Online activities available via the course moodle site. |
| Week 5: 27 June - 1 July | Lecture | Public narratives of climate change |
| | Tutorial | Readings available via course leganto site. |
| | Online Activity | Online activities available via the course moodle site. |
| | | |

| | Assessment | Short essay - Discourse Analysis |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Week 6: 4 July - 8 July | Homework | Flexibility Week - No Classes |
| Week 7: 11 July - 15 July | Lecture | Governing Climate Change |
| | Tutorial | Readings available via course leganto site. |
| | Online Activity | Online activities available via the course moodle site. |
| Week 8: 18 July - 22 July | Tutorial | Readings available via course leganto site. |
| | Lecture | Pre and Post-Carbon Politics |
| | Online Activity | Online activities available via the course moodle site. |
| Week 9: 25 July - 29 July | Tutorial | Readings available via course leganto site. |
| | Lecture | Going to ground – the land-climate nexus |
| | Online Activity | Online activities available via the course moodle site. |
| Week 10: 1 August - 5 August | Lecture | Democratising climate change |
| | Tutorial | Readings available via course leganto site. |
| | Online Activity | Online activities available via the course moodle site. |
| | Assessment | Short Essay - Narrative Analysis |

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 recommended 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

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 externalteltsupport@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 includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original 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 for the purpose of them plagiarising, 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

The [UNSW Academic Skills support](#) offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. 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 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

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided.)

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.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines>

Image Credit

Image credit: *Firefighting at Fingal*, Tasmania in 2020. Photo by [Matt Palmer](#) on [Unsplash](#)

CRICOS

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G