October 22, 2018

Climate Politics and Governance  
(POL S 403b)  
Aseem Prakash  
Fall 2018

Class Time: Monday and Wednesday, 12:30-2:20
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Course Objective
Climate change is perhaps the defining challenge of our time. It affects critically every aspect of our life. It is therefore not surprising that climate governance is complex and contested. There are several ways climate policies can support economic growth and create new opportunities. But climate policies can also create winners and losers and create social conflict. This undergraduate seminar will examine important policy issues in climate governance such as mitigation and adaptation policies, climate migration, climate justice, and climate finance. We will examine how well the existing approaches and institutions are working, and what new initiatives can help us respond to the climate challenge.

Readings
Most readings are uploaded on Canvas. If not, please see:
- whether the syllabus includes a web link or URL,
- Copy and paste the article title in <scholar.google.com> to check the possibility of downloading this article directly from the appropriate website.

This is a Device Free Class
Research suggests that the use of electronic devices in class can be distracting for you and for your colleagues. Therefore, to enhance your learning experience, you are not allowed to use phones, tablets, laptops or any Internet connectable devices. Please take notes by hand by using a pen and a note book.

Course Expectations
This course requires active student participation. You are expected to energetically and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions in the following ways.
Writing Memos

Article memos
For every session, students will be assigned an article to present and critique. The discussant-presenter should prepare a [two-page (single-spaced)] “Article Memo” which summarizes the article, examines its strengths and weaknesses, and identifies questions it raises for future research. Please email this memo to me by Sunday noon for the Monday class, and by Tuesday noon for the Wednesday class. The discussant-presenter should budget about 10-15 minutes for the in-class oral presentation. Remember, this is a device-free class; the presenter is welcome to bring along a printed copy of the memo. In the course of this quarter, you will probably be assigned to present 3 or 4 articles.

Key questions memo
I expect seminar participants to review all the assigned readings prior to the class. Based on these readings for a given session, you will write a “Key questions” memo. In this memo, identify two or three questions or issues that emerge from the assigned readings, along with a rationale as to why these questions are important. Your “Key Questions Memo” should be about [one-page (single-spaced)] and reach me by Sunday noon for the Monday class, and by Tuesday noon for the Wednesday class.

I have divided the course into three modules with about seven class sessions for every module. You need to write 2 key question memos (for two different class sessions) from every module (this means, 6 key question memos in total). Think of Module 1. Suppose you like readings from session 3. After reading the articles assigned for this session, think of two or three overarching questions that you believe emerge from these readings and should be discussed in the class. Of course, if you are assigned to present a specific article for session 3 (and write an article memo), you will not write a key questions memo.

Research Paper
Identify two countries, cities, or firms and compare how they are responding to climate change. Specifically:

- Identify two units you wish to study;
- Briefly explain how are they similar or different (the rationale for comparing them)?
- Specify the policies (mitigation and/or adaptation) you will be comparing;
- Why are you focusing on these policies; what do you think they might reveal about these units' climate policies;
- Do you expect the responses of these units will be similar or different? Why?
- The "therefore what?" question: how do you think this study might move forward your understanding of climate policy.

Please write in regular prose and not in bullet points. One [page outline is due October 24] and a five-page (single-spaced; excluding references and tables) research paper is due [December 5]. We will also schedule presentations (10 minutes per student) towards the end.
of the quarter

**Evaluation**
Article Memos: 30 points
Key Questions Memos: 30 points
Class Participation: 20 points
Research Paper: 10 points
Research Presentation 10 points

**Note**
I reserve the right to change the syllabus without prior notice.

**Class Schedule**

_________________________ Module 1 __________________________

**Session 1**
Wednesday, September 26
*Introduction to the course*

**Session 2**
Monday, October 1
*Overview*
- “Climate change did it!” is a convenient excuse [http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/science/2016/10/blaming_natural_disasters_on_climate_change_will_backfire.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/science/2016/10/blaming_natural_disasters_on_climate_change_will_backfire.html)
Session 3
Wednesday, October 3
Perspective and approaches

Session 4
Monday, October 8
Opposition to climate mitigation
- The end of Coal will haunt the Navajo https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2017-10-13/the-end-of-coal-will-haunt-the-navajo

Session 5
Wednesday, October 10
Barriers to climate response
Session 6
Monday, October 15

New issues

- Carbon leakages through trade

Session 7
Wednesday, October 17

Adaptation approaches

- In the waterlogged Netherlands, climate change is considered neither a hypothetical nor a drag on the economy. Instead, it's an opportunity. -https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/06/15/world/europe/climate-change-rotterdam.html

Session 8
Monday, October 22

Incorporating adaptation in the policy process

Paper outline is due

Session 9
Wednesday, October 24
Droughts and climate change

Session 10
Monday, October 29
Climate migration

Session 11
Wednesday, October 31
Gender and climate change

Session 12
Monday, November 5
Climate justice


Section 13
**Wednesday, November 7**
*Climate insurance*


• A broke, and broken, flood insurance program

• The Jersey shore would rather fight flooding with walls than retreat


**Monday Nov 12:**
*No class, Veterans Day*

Session 14
**Wednesday, November 14**
*Climate finance*


• Rising seas may wipe out these Jersey towns, but they’re still rated AAA
Session 15
Monday, November 19
Climate litigation

Session 16
Wednesday, November 21
Business dimension

Session 17
Monday, November 26
Carbon labels

Session 18
Wednesday, November 28
In-class presentations

Session 19
Monday, December 3
In-class presentations
Research Paper is due
Session 20
Wednesday, December 5
In-class presentations