January 22, 2018
Climate Politics and Governance
(POL S 403b)
Aseem Prakash
Winter 2018

Class Time: Monday and Wednesday, 12:30-2:20
Class Location: Smith 115
Office Hours: By appointment
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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 study how well the existing approaches and institutions are working, and what new initiatives can help us to address the climate challenge.

Readings
We will use journal or newspaper articles only. I have uploaded the journal articles on the Canvas. For the newspaper articles, the syllabus will provide the URLs.

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, during the class you are not allowed to use phones, tablets, laptops or any Internet connectable devices. Please take notes using a pen and a note book.

Seminar Expectations
This seminar requires active student participation. You are expected to energetically and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions in the following ways.
**Student Presentations**

For every session, students will present and critique the assigned articles. 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 the class by Sunday noon for the Monday class, and by Tuesday noon for the Wednesday class. Your memo will be shared on the class email list.

The discussant-presenter should budget about 10 minutes for the in-class oral presentation. Please do not simply read aloud your memo; touch and key points, especially your assessment of the article. Remember, this is a device-free class; the presenter is welcome to bring along a printed copy of the memo.

**Class Participation**

Needless to say, I expect seminar participants to review all the assigned readings prior to the class. Based on these readings, for **any 6 sessions** (the course has three parts; 2 memos from every part of this course), please will email me two questions or issues you want to discuss in the class (students assigned a specific article will not do so; they will email their “Article Memo” only). Instead of listing your questions, please briefly explain how these questions contribute to our understanding of the article(s) under discussion. 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. Your memo will be shared on the class email list.

**Research Paper**

A five-page (single-spaced; excluding references and tables) research paper is due **March 7**. Identify two counties, cities, or firms and compare how they are responding to climate change. One page outline is due **February 5**.

**Evaluation**

- Article Memos: 30 points
- Key Questions Memos: 30 points
- Class Participation: 20 points
- Research Paper: 20 points

**Note**

I reserve the right to change the syllabus without prior notice.
Class Schedule

Part 1

Session 1
Wednesday, January 3
Introduction to the course

Session 2
Monday, January 8
Overview
- Rising waters threaten China’s rising cities
- Jakarta is sinking so fast, it could end up underwater
- The nightmare scenario for Florida’s coastal homeowners: Demand and financing could collapse before the sea consumes a single house
- In the waterlogged Netherlands, climate change is considered neither a hypothetical nor a drag on the economy. Instead, it’s an opportunity.
- The toughest question in climate change: Who gets saved?
- “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

Session 3
Wednesday, January 10
Perspective and approaches

No Class on Monday, January 15 on account of MLK Day
Session 4  
Wednesday, January 17  
**Opposition to climate mitigation**

- Tribes that live off Coal hold tight to Trump’s promises  
- The end of Coal will haunt the Navajo  

Session 5  
Monday, January 22  
**Barriers to climate response**

- Nives Dolsak and Aseem Prakash. 2015. Confronting the "China Excuse:" The Political Logic of Climate Change Adaptation, Solutions  
- Opp, S. & Mosier, S. 2017. Counting money: Cities love climate policies if they generate local benefits. Accessible at:  
  https://publicadministrationreview.org/speak-your-mindclimate-change-symposium/
- Coglianese, C. & Starobin, S. 2017. The legal risks of regulating climate change at the subnational level. Accessible at:  
  https://publicadministrationreview.org/speak-your-mindclimate-change-symposium/

Session 6  
Wednesday, January 24  
**EU and Climate Change**  
**Guest Speaker: Jurgen Salay**
Session 7  
Monday, January 29  
Adaptation approaches  

Session 8  
Wednesday, January 31  
Incorporating adaptation in the policy process  

Paper outline is due

Session 9  
Monday, February 5  
Droughts and climate change  
- Joy C.-Y. Muller. 2014. Adapting to climate change and addressing drought – learning from the Red Cross Red Crescent experiences in the Horn of Africa. *Weather and Climate Extremes*, 3(June), 31-36.
Session 10  
Wednesday, February 7  
Climate migration  
- Nawrotzki1, R. et al. 2015. Climate change as a migration driver from rural and urban Mexico. *Environmental Research Letters*. 10(11)  

Session 11  
Monday, February 12  
Gender and climate change  

Session 12  
Wednesday, February 14  
Climate Justice  

No Class Monday February 19 on account of Presidents Day
Session 13
Wednesday, February 21
Climate insurance
- A broke, and broken, flood insurance program
- The Jersey shore would rather fight flooding with walls than retreat

Session 14
Monday, February 26
Climate finance
- Rising seas may wipe out these Jersey towns, but they're still rated AAA
Session 15  
Wednesday, February 28  
Climate litigation  
- Climate-change lawsuits  
- Vladeck, D. 2008. Information access - Surveying the current legal Landscape of federal right-to-know laws, 86 Texas Law Review. 1787, 1836.  

Session 16  
Monday, March 5  
Business Dimension  

Research Paper is due  
Session 17  
Wednesday, March 7  
Carbon labels  