

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINE			
TERM:	Fall 2015	COURSE NO:	GEOG 316
INSTRUCTOR:		COURSE NAME: CLIMATE CHANGE: FROM SCIENCE TO SUSTAINABILITY	
OFFICE:	LOCAL:	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3
E-MAIL:			
OFFICE HOURS:			

COURSE FORMAT:

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15 week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

45 credits of 100-level or higher coursework.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Climate change has emerged as one of the most important issues of the 21st century. Its rapid escalation from a theory among groups of climatologists and environmentalists to both a common household term and an international priority highlight the importance of understanding climate change, its myriad implications on society and the environment and the urgency in working towards solutions. The field of geography offers a unique multi-disciplinary approach to studying climate change as it draws from the physical and social sciences.

This course will cover topics such as: the causes of current and historical climate change; the human and environmental implications ranging from changing weather patterns to environmental refugees; climate change policy and greenhouse gas reduction strategies; and the diverse array of solutions to building more sustainable communities. Students will be engaged in the interpretation of historical and current climate change, in the critical evaluation of the public debate on global climate change and in communicating ideas about education, mitigation strategies, innovation and policy development.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the natural and anthropogenic causes of climate change.
2. Evaluate causes, patterns and impacts of historical climate variability.
3. Recognize and decipher current regional patterns in climate.
4. Explain and communicate the impact of climate change on society and the environment.
5. Critically evaluate arguments made in public debate on climate change.
6. Understand and evaluate current policies dealing with climate change and understand the political issues associated with such policies.
7. Describe and assess the various mitigation and adaptation strategies for dealing with climate change.

Course learning outcomes – continued

8. Understand and advocate for the various innovative sustainable solutions that exist and that are being put into practice around the world.
9. Possess the language and knowledge base necessary to articulate ideas about climate change and to discuss with and teach others as well.

COURSE WEBSITE:

<http://moodle.capilanou.ca>

This course website provides the course outline, class outlines, various handouts, resources and discussion forums. It is very important that students register on the Moodle website within the first few days of the semester.

REQUIRED READING:

The course Moodle site will have a list of required readings for this course.

COURSE CONTENT:

The following table provides a guide to the lecture topics throughout the term. You are responsible for having completed the readings from both texts before the lecture.

Week	Topic
1	What's up with the weather? An introduction to weather and climate.
2	Evidence of a changing climate – past and present
3	Climate change basics
4,5	Current trends – a regional analysis
6,7,8	Impacts of climate change in Canada and around the world Midterm Exam – Wed. Oct. 16th
9	Risk, vulnerability, adaptability
10, 11	Policies and politics
12, 13	Innovation and action
14,15	Final Exams – Dec. 2 - 13

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**Discussion Forum (4th-hour Activity):**

Students will be required to participate in an online discussion of selected papers on the Moodle Discussion Forum.

Action Portfolio:

These smaller projects will engage students in their communities while they work on campus sustainability efforts, attend and participate in lecture series and play a part in increasing the sustainability of their neighbourhoods. Students will submit a proposal at the beginning of the term with an outline of what their action projects will be.

Group Presentation:

Students will form in groups and research the impact of climate change from various regions and countries around the world. They will present their findings to the class and prepare class notes.

Research Paper:

This major research paper will highlight case studies from the local/regional/international community. The research will address: what social, environmental, economic impacts has climate change had on this region?; what types of solutions are being implemented?; how successful have they been?; how can we learn from their successes and challenges? Students will be required to research primary resources and to connect with various organizations to learn about current projects.

Exams:

These comprehensive exams will evaluate a student's understanding of information and concepts covered throughout the term. Critical thinking and evaluative questions will be included.

EVALUATION PROFILE:

Discussion Forum (4 th -hour)	10%
Action Project	15%
Group Presentation	10%
Research Assignment	25%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	<u>20%</u>
	100%

GRADE PROFILE:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 77 - 79%	C+ = 67 - 69%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 89	B = 73 - 76	C = 63 - 66	F = 0 - 49
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 70 - 72	C- = 60 - 62	

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Attendance: Regular attendance and punctuality are essential. When students are absent from class, they are still responsible for the material covered during their absence,

Operational details – continuedLate Assignments:

All assignments must be presented in class on the due date. Marks will be deducted for the late submission of assignments. The penalty for the late submission of an assignment is 10% per day.

Missed Exams:

Make-up tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crisis. Students should be prepared to provide proof of inability to write the test on the scheduled date (e.g. letter from doctor).

English Usage:

It is the responsibility of students to proof-read all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Marks will be deducted for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Incomplete Grades:

'I' grades are issued at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises.

Electronic Devices:

No personal electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, calculators, electronic dictionaries, etc...) may be used during an examination without prior approval from the instructor. During an exam, turn off all cell phones and pagers and remove them from the desk.

Emergency Procedures:

Please read the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.