

**CAPILANO UNIVERSITY  
COURSE OUTLINES**

<b>TERM:</b> FALL 2015	<b>COURSE NO:</b> SOC 302	
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b> TBA	<b>COURSE NAME:</b> Sociology of Climate Change	
<b>OFFICE:</b> LOCAL: <b>E-MAIL:</b> @capilanou.ca	<b>SECTION NO(S):</b>	<b>CREDITS:</b> 3
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b> TBA		

**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**

Scientists agree that human activity is creating a climate crisis. The social effects of this crisis will be experienced differently depending on whether you are rich or poor, or live in the global South or North. Students will look at the role of human society in climate change, in particular at consumerism, the fossil fuel industry, and the role of the media, as well as at possible solutions to the crisis.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

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

- explain from a sociological perspective some of the social, political, and economic causes and effects of climate change;
- analyze the way that culture and mass media have shaped the discourse around climate change;
- explain how climate change affects different social communities in different ways;
- analyze some of the social movements that have emerged around climate change issues;
- critically read, analyze, and understand social science research on climate change; and
- write critically about climate change from a sociological perspective.

**COURSE WEBSITE:**

moodle.capilanou.ca

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Klein, Naomi. This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate. Toronto: Knopf, 2014. ISBN: 9780307401991.

Other readings available through Moodle.

**COURSE CONTENT:**

Week	Topic	Reading (Moodle readings in bold)
1	What is Climate Change?	<b>IPPC AR 5</b>
2	Sociology and Climate Change?	<b>Urry, Sociology and Climate Change</b>
3	This Changes Everything: introduction	Klein Introduction and ch. 1
4	Neoliberal Capitalism and Climate Change	Klein chs. 2 and 3
5	Planning, Banning, and Moving Beyond Extractivism	Klein chs. 4 and 5
6	Big Green	Klein ch. 6
7	Magical Thinking: Billionaires and Geo-engineering	Klein chs. 7 and 8
8	Media Coverage of Climate Change	<b>Good, “Framing of Climate Change”;</b> <b>Young and Dugas, “Representations...”</b>
9	Political and PR Responses to Climate Change	<b>Greenberg, “Spinning Climate Change”;</b> <b>Young and Coutinho, “Government, Anti-Reflexivity...”</b>
10	The Social Psychology of Climate Change	<b>Norgaard, “Living in Denial”</b>
11	Blockadia: The New Climate Warriors	Klein ch. 9
12	Democracy and Divestment	Klein ch. 10
13	Indigenous Rights and Climate Change	Klein ch. 11
14	EXAM PERIOD	
15	EXAM PERIOD	

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**

There will be two **exams**, one of them a midterm and the other a final exam, consisting of short-answer and essay-style questions.

There will also be a **group seminar presentation** required on one of the assigned readings. A sign-up sheet will be available in the first class.

Each student must write a **research paper** investigating a sociological aspect of climate change. The papers may focus, for example, on the links between “car culture” and climate change, or between climate change and urban design, or on the question of “climate debt.” A list of possible topics and full details on the paper will be handed out by the second week of class.

There will be a set of online **fourth-hour** activities that will build on the readings and classroom material. Refer to the course website for more information. These will be worth 10% of your overall grade.

The **participation** mark will be based on:

- group work done in-class
- “minute papers”: very short papers (as short as a sentence) written in-class and marked as either “complete” or “incomplete.” These papers might ask you to summarize one of the main points of that day’s class, or of the readings for the class, or to think of a question that is related to the day’s topic that wasn’t answered in the lecture or discussion.

### EVALUATION PROFILE:

Midterm exam:	25%
Group seminar presentation:	10%
Research paper:	25%
Final Exam:	25%
Fourth-hour online assignments:	10%
Participation:	<u>5%</u>
Total:	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 grades), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.*

Attendance: Class attendance is essential to success in the course. Classes will involve lectures, videos, debates and discussions, small-group assignments, handouts, and other material. All of this is “examinable,” so if you miss a class for any reason, please arrange to get notes from a classmate.

Late Assignments: Late papers will be accepted, but with a 5% penalty for each day that the paper is late, including weekends.

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. Missing an exam for any other reason will be accommodated only in special circumstances, and only with prior arrangement with the instructor.

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: Given at the discretion of the instructor. Generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises.

Electronic Devices: No personal electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, calculators, electronic dictionaries, “smart” watches, etc...) may be used during an examination without prior approval from the instructor. During an exam, turn off all mobile phones and other devices and remove them from the desk.

Emergency Procedures:

Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.