



EXTENDED CAMPUS

COLLEGE *of* PROFESSIONAL
and CONTINUING STUDIES

IAS 5940-496: Topics in International Studies: Global Climate Change Policy

Course Description:

Climate change is a difficult, contentious, and important issue. Climate change will also likely be the defining environmental issue of the 21st century. This course will investigate the complexity of climate change policy by exploring the success and failures of current and past climate change policies, as well as the possibilities for the future. Through this course, we will integrate the biological, physical, and social sciences and attempt to answer many important questions such as: What is the scientific basis for our understanding of climate change, and in what ways is that scientific basis uncertain? What policy solutions might be necessary or preferred to address climate change? And what are the challenges and barriers to developing effective climate change policy?

Course Dates:

October 18 – October 31, 2021

Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: October 1, 2021

Site Director:

This is a three-credit hour online course. Please see your local Site Director or email or online site coordinator at aponline@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Adam W. Gibson, Ph.D.
Telephone Number: (970) 310-1518
Email Address: adam.gibson@ou.edu
Virtual Office Hours: By appointment
Professor availability: The professor will be available via email to students and other methods by arrangement.

Instructional Materials:

Materials posted on the OU Canvas learning management system. Access Canvas at <https://oklahoma.instructure.com/>, enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

OU Email:

All official correspondence from instructors will be sent only to students' ou.edu address.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain and evaluate the evidence for human-caused climate change.
- Explain and quantify the impacts of climate change on human well-being and the natural world, and evaluate means by which these impacts can be reduced (resiliency and adaptation).

- Evaluate the successes and failures of past national and international efforts to address climate change, and evaluate prospects for future management of climate change.
- Assess the communication of science and policy for climate change, as a successful or unsuccessful example of how science and policy can and should inform one another

Course Outline:

The course will follow a series of 4 modules with associated readings, self-guided lecture slides, quizzes, and assignments. The modules include the following:

1. The science of climate change
2. How climate change policy works
3. The psychology of climate change
4. The future of policy

Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:

Assignment	Due Date(s)	Percent of Grade
Initial Canvas log-in and introduction post	October 1	0
250-word posts to 4 discussion forums	October 18 - 31	20%
4 Quizzes	October 18 - 31	20%
Climate change science paper	October 21	10%
Scientific article review	October 31	10%
Topic paper	October 31	20%
Essay exam	November 14	20%

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

Policy for Late Work:

Please contact the professor regarding his/her policy for late work

Attendance Policy:

In addition to interaction via Canvas and email contact, students are required to contact the instructor via email or telephone **before** the beginning of the course term for an initial briefing. Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive, learning activities is required.

Student assignments and student/instructor communications will be conducted via Canvas, although students may contact the instructor via telephone, postal mail, email, or fax as needed

Incomplete Grade Policy:

A grade of “I” is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a “Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade” form. An “I” can never be used in lieu of an “F” nor can an “I” be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

Technical Support Information:

If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: <http://webapps.ou.edu/it/> or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).

POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Note: Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution's policy regarding "I" (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any "I" (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on "financial aid probation." If the "I" grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student's Financial Aid may be suspended making the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc...in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc...; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at <http://studentconduct.ou.edu/>

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html>.

Title IX Resources

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at smo@ou.edu or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615 -0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office's website at <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html>

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: <http://www.goou.ou.edu/>

INSTRUCTOR VITA

Adam W. Gibson, Ph.D.

Education

- 2011 Ph.D., Human Dimensions of Natural Resources, Colorado State University, CO
- 2008 M.S., Human Dimensions of Natural Resources, Colorado State University, CO
- 2005 B.S. Zoology, University of Oklahoma, OK

Current Positions

- Social Scientist, Acadia National Park
- Lecturer, Environmental Studies Program, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oklahoma
- Associate Faculty, School of Forest Resources, University of Maine

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Environmental Psychology
- Climate Change Vulnerability
- Wilderness Philosophy
- Natural Resources and Society
- Human Dimensions of Coastal Ecosystems

Representative Publications and Presentations

- Gibson, A. W., Hess, G., McHale, M., Peterson, N., & McCormick, S. (In Review) Perceptions of climate change in a land-locked city. *Climatic Change*.
- Gibson, A. W., Newman, P., Benfield, J., Bell, P., & Lawson, S. (2014). Photograph presentation order and range effects in visual based outdoor recreation research. *Leisure Sciences*, 36(2), 183-205.
- Gibson, A. 2014. Environmental economics. *University of North Carolina at Wilmington Lecture Series*, Wilmington, NC.
- Gibson, A. 2014. Public perception of climate change. *Social Coast Forum*, Charleston, South Carolina.
- Gibson, A. 2012. Applications of human dimensions concepts to the management of coastal resources. *Coastal Resource Management Seminar Series, East Carolina University*, Greenville, NC.

Public Service

- Board Member, Downeast Transportation, Inc., Trenton, Maine.
- Science & Technical Advisory Committee Member, Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership, Raleigh, NC
- Committee Member, Preservation and Architectural Review Committee (PARC), Manteo, NC