

ENVI394 Climate Talks: Dispatches from Paris

Tues/Thurs 3-4:30pm OLIN RICE 270

Prof. Roopali Phadke phadke@macalester.edu

Course Overview

This seminar will develop student understanding of the history of climate policy making and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) framework. We will consider the challenges facing diplomats and decision makers in negotiating a historic treaty this year. This course culminates with our trip to the 21st Conference of Parties (COP 21) in Paris. Our trip is from Nov 28-Dec 5.

Our week in Paris extends beyond the convention halls toward thinking critically about the civil society response and the role of our host city in making it happen. In addition to COP21, our itinerary includes guest lectures, alumni visits and city tours.

In addition to readings and discussion, students will receive training in event ethnography, media outreach and practice oral and written presentation skills. We will interact with many local leaders while on campus, and many more in Paris. We will also coordinate our course with several other courses around the country focused on COP21.

We meet regularly on Tuesdays and occasionally on other days. Thursdays 3-4:30 are blocked off for your research meetings and my office hours for this class. Please do not double book this class period.

Assignments and Evaluations

Reading Responses (20): There are 5 reading/film responses due for our Tuesday classes. They are due on Monday mornings at 12pm so that the presentation leaders can incorporate your ideas into the class meeting. Please submit these on Moodle to me and by email to class presenters. Aim for a 600-750 word response (1- 1.5 pages).

Participation and Class presentations (30): Your active participation is necessary for this class to be a success. In addition, two students will lead class once on the * dates. This will involve meeting with me in advance to plan the class. Sign ups circulated first day of class.

** REMINDER: We are all expected to track COP21 news and events!!! We will devote some time each meeting for updates.

Final Project -- Policy Brief/White paper (50): There will be four stages to this assignment: 1) a personal statement about your interests and experiences (due Thurs Sept 10), 2) a group research plan that includes how you will plan, execute and disseminate your project (due Thurs Oct 10), 3) a class presentation (in class Nov 24), and 4) the final paper. Your group will need to meet with me regularly.



Your group will need to identify a Macalester/community mentor for your work and a potential organization interested in hosting or learning from your findings. Possible Research themes: Scientists in Action, the non-state response, private sector and sustainable innovation, migration and conflict.

Books for purchase at bookstore:

- N. Oreskes and E. Conway. 2015. *The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View from the Future*. NY: Columbia Univ. Press.
- N. Klein. 2014. *This Changes Everything*. NY: Simon and Shuster Press.

DRAFT Class Schedule

* Denotes student presentation days

Thurs Sept 3: Course Overview

Tues Sept 8: What's at stake at COP21 Paris

- N. Oreskes and E. Conway. 2015. *The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View from the Future*. NY: Columbia Univ. Press.

Reading Response: *Based on the outlook presented in the book, what is your message for COP21 delegates? Describe three general provisions you hope to be part of the next climate treaty.*

Thurs Sept 10: Personal statements and individual appointments to select research themes (sign up)

* **Tues Sept 15:** History of UNFCCC Climate Regime

- Joanna DePledge. 2005. "Chpt 2: The Organization of Global Negotiations" and "Chpt 3: Constructing the Climate Change Regime" in *The Organization of Global Negotiations* Pp. 5-34.

- B. Orlove et al. 2015. "Chpt 2: How long standing debates have shaped recent climate change discourses", in J. Barnes and M. Dove (eds) *Climate Cultures*. New Haven: Yale Univ Press. Pp. 48-81.

Reading response: *What historical lessons should we have in view on the road to COP21?*

Thurs Sept 12: Research group meetings I

* **Tues Sept 22:** Why 2 degrees? Climate modeling and measuring (With guest Prof. Jessy O'Reilly)

- M. Hulme. 2011. "Reducing the Future to Climate: A Story of Climate Determinism and Reductionism" *Osiris* Vol. 26, No. 1: 245-266.

- J. O'Reilly. 2015. "Chpt 4: Glacial Dramas: Typos, Projections and Peer Review in the Fourth Assessment of the IPCC," in J. Barnes and M. Dove (eds) *Climate Cultures*. New Haven: Yale Univ Press. Pp. 107-126.

Reading response: *Why and how are climate targets/numbers political?*

Thurs Sept 24: EnviroThursday – Building Unity: The Pope’s Encyclical and the Role of Faith Groups with guests Prof. Jim Laine and Prof. Colleen Carpenter

- Pope’s Encyclical. http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

- Also read: <http://www.nature.com/news/faith-and-science-can-find-common-ground-1.18083>

Tues Sept 29: Communicating Climate: Media Workshop with invited guests Mary Stucky (Round Earth Media) and Jessica Marshall (science blogger).

- Moser, S.C. and L. Dilling. 2011. Communicating Climate Change: Closing the Science Action Gap. In J.S. Dryzek, R.B. Norgaard, and D. Schlosberg (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Climate and Society* (pp. 161-174). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Thursday Oct 1: Research group meeting II – Research Plan due to Roopali at 4:30pm

Tues Oct 6: Polls and public perceptions: What do people know and think about climate change? With guest Christie Manning (Macalester) and Rick Worthington (Pomona)

- W.U. Weber and P.C. Stern. 2011. “Public understanding of climate change in the United States,” *American Psychologist*, 66(4): 315-328.

- A. McCright and R. Dunlap. 2011. “The Politicization of Climate Change and Polarization in the American Public’s Views of Global Warming” *The Sociological Quarterly* 52(2), 155-194.

- WWV Synthesis Report 2015. You can also view results at <http://climateandenergy.wwviews.org/>

*** Tues Oct 13: Carbon Trades and Credits**

-N. Klein. 2015. Chapters 6 and 7. *This Changes Everything* NY: Simon and Shuster Press. Pp. 191-255.

- Arhin and J. Atela. 2015. “Forest Carbon Projects” in M. Leach and I. Scoones (eds) *Carbon Conflicts and Forest Landscapes in Africa*. NY: Routledge Press. Pp. 43-57.

Reading response: *Based on what we know from these readings, what is a just way of offsetting our travels?*

Sunday Oct 18 11-5pm: Retreat at St John’s University to meet with our collaborators

Tues Oct 20: Lessons in Event Ethnography with guest Pia Kolher, Williams College

- Campbell, L.M, C. Corson, N. J. Gray, K. I. MacDonald, J. P. Brosius. 2014. “Studying Global Environmental Meetings to Understand Global Environmental Governance” *Global Environmental Politics* 14:3.

Thurs Oct 22: Fall Break

Tues Oct 27: AASHE/MN2015 **Oct 26-28** is this week – we will discuss our role in the conference but this is a chance for us to practice our event ethnography skills

*** Tues Nov 3: Equity and Justice, Burdens and Blame**

- Watch film *Island President* (on reserve in the Library, also available on Netflix and iTunes)

- N. Klein. 2014. "Part III: Starting Anyway", *This Changes Everything*. NY: Simon and Shuster Press. Pp. 291-387 (*the part goes on – read on if you want*). (Not on Moodle – you should own this book)

Hopefully, we can watch the film too – but maybe it will be in Paris ☺

Film/reading response: How can the climate movement build the solidarity needed to succeed in Paris?

*** Tues Nov 10:** The Tech Fix – Geoengineering and beyond + Paris' Urban Sustainability Model with Vivian Mitnick

- M. Specter. 2012. "The Climate Fixers: Is there a technological solution to global warming?" *The New Yorker*. May 14.

Reading response: How should technological applications be governed, shared and perhaps at times banned?

Thurs Nov 12: Research Group meetings with Roopali (sign up)

Tues Nov 17: Making Climate Negotiations More Effective

- Chasek et al. 2015. "Six Ways to Make Climate Negotiations More Effective"

Thurs Nov 19: Climate Interactive simulation game in class. We may need an extra hour for this – and snacks/dinner will be provided.

Tues Nov 24: Planning for Paris – Research group presentations + visit with Kevin Morrison (International Center)

Thurs Nov 26: Thanksgiving Break

FLIGHT INFO

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure City	Arrival City	Departure	Arrival	Arrival Time
28-Nov	DL171	Delta	MSP	CDG	509P	29-Nov	835A
5-Dec	DL170	Delta	CDG	MSP	1030A	5-Dec	103P

Tues Dec 8: Last meeting and planning for J-term/Spring activities