Course Syllabus

Office hours: Thursday 2:15 – 5:00 or by appointment. Where: SSMS Building 2113.

Course description: This seminar will provide students with a basic introduction to the international climate agreement, tracing historic origins, institutional architecture and political forces shaping it. It will combine an IR approach to international regime formation with a comparative politics approach to learn from different country approaches to energy and climate legislation and how these impact and are impacted by international climate negotiations.

Course requirements: The grades will be based on
(1) attendance and participation in discussions (20%),
(2) presentation and term paper on a country position (10% / 40%),
(3) two reading summaries (30%)

Reading material is posted on Gauchospace www.gauchospace.ucsb.edu. Go directly to course webpage at https://gauchospace.ucsb.edu/courses/course/view.php?id=3968

Week 0: Thursday, September 23, 2010: Introduction
Reading: Dyer, Scenario One, The Geopolitics of Climate Change; Hansen, Is there still time?

Week 1: Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2010: Environmentalism in historic perspective
Reading: Carson, Silent Spring; Mertig et al., Environmentalism in the US; Schellenberg and Norhouse, Death of Environmentalism; Orestes and Conway, The Denial of Global Warming.

Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010: Social sciences and understanding climate change politics
Reading: Cox, Environment and the media, Ackerman, Cost-benefit, where it goes wrong. Ward, Journalism ethics and climate change reporting.

Week 2: Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2010: International Relations theory
Reading: Oye, Conditions for Cooperation in World Politics; Abdelal, Blyth, and Parsons, Constructing the International Economy; Wendt, Anarchy is what states make of it; Wapner, Greenpeace and Political Globalism.

Thursday, Oct. 7, 2010: International institutions
Reading: Mitchell, Regime effectiveness; Thomas, Governance bank; Ivanova, Assessing UNEP.

Week 3: Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010: Learning from MEAs
Reading: Wetttestad, Montreal Protocol; Connolly, Geneva Convention & Sulfur Protocols; Chasek, CITES.

Reading: Chaterjee and Finger, Rio and Bust, McGarity, Cost of Greenhouse Gas Reductions; Stern, Economics of Climate Change, Parry, Report on Reports on Adaptation.
Week 4: Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010: Climate negotiations
Reading: Leggett, Carbon war - Kyoto negotiations; IPCC, 4th Assessment Report;

Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010: Climate negotiations
Reading: Clémençon, rethinking climate negotiations; UNFCCC, text of Copenhagen Accord; Pooley, Copenhagen, 414 - 441.

Week 5: Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010: Climate negotiations / FIRST READING ESSAY DUE
Reading: Elzen & Hühne, Sharing reduction efforts; Meckling and Chung, Sectoral approaches; McGarity, Cost of greenhouse gas reductions; Aldy & Stavins, Harvard Project on Climate Change Agreements.

Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010: EU climate politics
Reading: European Commission, EU on track to meet or over-achieve Kyoto 2009; Haug and Brekhout, Learning the hard way; Matisoff, Carbon trading: lessons from the EU.

Week 6: Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2010: EU climate politics
Reading: Weidner & Luz, German climate policy.

Thursday, Nov. 4, 2010: Country case studies (US)
Reading: Nye, Path Insistence; Shulman, Icing the climate cake; Repetto, Adaptation Myth.

Week 7: Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010: Country case studies (US) / SECOND READING ESSAY DUE
Reading: Bazerman, US energy policy barriers; Pooley, on Waxman-Markey bill, 359 - 403; Follow news on mid-term election and implications for climate - energy legislation (committee chairmanships in Senate and House).

Thursday, Nov. 11, 2010: VETERANS' DAY

Week 8: Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2010: Country case studies / Student Presentations
Reading: Mueller et al., Differentiating historic responsibilities; Sinden, Abandonment of justice; Parry et al. Adaptation costs.

Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010: Country case studies / Student Presentations
Reading: Ye et al., China local climate politics, Dubash, India progressive policy.

Week 9: Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010: Country case studies / Student Presentations
Reading: revisit last weeks reading.

Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010: THANKSGIVING

Week 10: Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010: Regional and Subnational actors
Reading: Abramovay, Brazil and Sao Paolo climate policy; to be determined - check Gauchospace for information.

Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010: Climate Change and World Politics - TERM PAPER DUE
Reading: to be determined - check Gauchospace for information.

Term paper: Look for a separate handout for the term paper
Bibliography:


