

# Gov 1027: The Political of Climate Change

## Fall 2019

T/Th 11:40 am – 1:05 pm  
Hubbard 22  
Gov1027@bowdoin.edu

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Office hours:  
Wednesdays 1:30-3:00 pm  
Thursdays 2:00-3:30 pm  
and by appointment

This course provides an overview of the major venues for climate politics and which actors are involved. Examines the politics of climate change at multiple levels—from the individual to global governance—and reviews climate policy in different countries. Pays particular attention to cases where active policy making or public mobilization around climate is occurring, asking why we see initiative and innovation in climate policy in these cities, states, and international venues and not elsewhere. Considers themes such as how climate policy is developed in democracies and authoritarian regimes, how climate policy may affect economic development, the role of non-state actors such as NGOs and business groups in climate politics, and the ethical implications of different climate policy options.

### Participation, Assignments, and Grading:

As a first year seminar, this class will focus on critical reading, class discussion, and clear and persuasive writing. I will lecture occasionally to provide context, but most of the class period will be spent discussing the readings, and the issues that they raise, and considering different aspects of the writing process.

### Assignments and Grading

Grades will be calculated based on the following assignments:

Participation	10 percent	Throughout the semester
Critical Reflection on a talk	10 percent	Throughout the semester
Editorial Analysis	15 percent	Tues., September 17
Policy Description	20 percent	Fri., October 4
Explaining State Climate Policy	20 percent	Tuesday, October 29
Final Research Paper	Draft Ungraded	Tues, December 3
	Final 25 percent	Weds., December 18

For each assignment, except the final comparative research paper which has a draft built in, students are encouraged to revise their assignments and submit them to be regraded. Grades for the assignment will be an average of the scores for the original and revised submissions.

No late assignments will be accepted without prior agreement!

### *Participation*

Your participation grade includes your class attendance, level of preparation for class, willingness to speak up during our class discussions, performance on in-class writing assignments, contributions to our Blackboard “Climate Politics in the News” page, and active participation in class activities.

### **Readings**

All of our required readings will be available through our Blackboard course website or they will be distributed by the instructor.

### **Course Website**

I have set up a course website on Blackboard where you will find access to readings, copies of assignments and other handouts, advice for researching topics related to climate politics, links to useful websites, and a “Climate Politics in the News” section. I encourage you to visit the website and to use its resources as you complete your assignments.

### **Laptop Policy**

Laptops and tablets are not allowed in class, unless you have a documented accommodation or some other challenge that necessitates an exception. While I recognize that they can be useful for note taking, they are also a distraction and can be an obstacle to class participation. Please see me if you have any concerns.

### **Plagiarism**

Bowdoin College uses the following definition of plagiarism:

“Plagiarism is possible with any work performed in any medium and in any scholarly discipline. Plagiarism involves the intentional or unintentional use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment in all such scholarly work as essays, examinations, oral/written reports, homework assignments, laboratory reports, computer programs, music scores, choreography, graphic depictions, and visual presentations. Plagiarism also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in selling of term papers or other academic materials.”  
(Bowdoin Academic Honor Code)

We will discuss how to properly cite your sources, but you also consult the college webpage on plagiarism: <https://www.bowdoin.edu/dean-of-students/judicial-board/academic-honesty-and-plagiarism/index.html>. If you are in doubt about how to refer to a particular work, please let me know.

Readings:

Thursday, September 5

**Why the “Politics” of Climate Change?**

Michael F. Maniates, “Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?,” *Global Environmental Politics* 1, 3 (August 2001): 31-52.

Tuesday, September 10

**Why Do We Disagree about How to Address Climate Change?**

Jennifer Clapp and Peter Dauvergne, *Paths to a Green World*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2005, Chapter 1.

Damian Carrington, “Why the Guardian is changing the language it uses about the environment,” *The Guardian*, May 17, 2019. Available at:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/may/17/why-the-guardian-is-changing-the-language-it-uses-about-the-environment>

Thursday, September 12

**What is the Science of Climate Change?**

Will Steffan, Paul J. Crutzen, and John R. McNeill. “The Anthropocene: Are Humans Now Overwhelming the Great Forces of Nature?” *Ambio* 36, 8 (2007): 614-21.

Frank P. Incropera, “Consequences of Global Warming,” In *Climate Change: A Wicked Problem: Complexity and Uncertainty at the Intersection of Science, Economics, Politics, and Human Behavior*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 5, pp. 80-107.

Recommended, IPCC, “Summary for Policymakers,” *Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5 °C*, October 2018. Available at: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>.

Tuesday, September 17

**Markets: Can Capitalism Get Us In and Out of the Climate Crisis**

Bill McKibben, “After Growth,” *Deep Economy*, St. Martin's Griffin, 2008, Chapter 1.

Jonas Meckling, Nina Kelsey, Eric Biber, and John Zysman, “Winning coalitions for climate policy,” *Science* (2015): 1170-1171

SKIM: Garrett Hardin, “Tragedy of the Commons,” in Conca and Dabelko, Chapter 3.

SKIM: The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate: “Better Growth, Better Climate”

**\*\*\*Editorial Assignment Due in class\*\*\***

Thursday, September 19

**How Did Climate Change Become Politicized in the U.S.?**

Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway, “The Denial of Global Warming,” *Merchants of Doubt*, Chapter 6.

Recommended: Nathaniel Rich, “Losing Earth,” *New York Times*, August 1, 2018. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/08/01/magazine/climate-change-losing-earth.html>

Tuesday, September 24

**Public Opinion about Climate Change in the U.S.**

Patrick J. Egan and Megan Mullin. “Climate Change: US Public Opinion,” *Annual Review of Political Science* 20 (2017): 209–27.

A.M. McCright and R.E. Dunlap, “Cool Dudes: The Denial of Climate Change among Conservative White Males in the U.S.” *Global Environmental Change* 21, 4 (2011): 1163–1172.

***Public Lecture***

Wednesday, September 25 – Danny Richter, Citizen’s Climate Lobby, “The Policies and Politics of Pricing Carbon in Today’s Washington,” Roux 207

Thursday, September 26

**Debating Climate Policy Options**

S. Pacala and R. Socolow, “Stabilization Wedges: Solving the Climate Problem for the Next 50 Years with Current Technologies,” *Science* (2004): 968–972.

Hal Harvey, “Energy Policy Design,” *Designing Climate Solutions*, Chapter 2.

In Class Research exercise – please bring a laptop!

Tuesday, October 1

**Ethics of Climate Change**

Stephen M. Gardiner, “A Perfect Moral Storm: Climate Change, Intergenerational Ethics and the Problem of Moral Corruption,” *Environmental Values* 15, 3 (2006): 397–413.

Recommended: Pope Francis, “Laudato Si’,” May 2015. Available at: [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

Thursday, October 3

**Communicating Effectively about Climate Change**

Mike Hulme, “Things We Fear,” *Why We Disagree about Climate Change*, Cambridge University Press, 2009 Chapter 6.

Paul G. Bain, Matthew J. Hornsey, Renata Bongiorno and Carla Jeffries, “Promoting pro-environmental action in climate change deniers,” *Nature Climate Change* 2 (2012): 600–603.

**\*\*\*Friday, October 4: Policy Description due by 5 pm \*\*\***

Tuesday, October 8

**Geoengineering: Last Resort or Practical Solution?**

David G. Victor, M. Granger Morgan, Jay Apt, John Steinbruner, and Katharine Ricke, “The Geoengineering Option,” *Foreign Affairs*, January 19, 2015.

Clive Hamilton, “The Ethical Foundations of Climate Engineering,” in Burns and Strauss, eds., *Climate Change Geoengineering*, Cambridge University Press, 2013, Chapter 2.

***Public Lecture: Required***

October 9 - Wil Burns, Co-Director and Professor of Research,  
Institute for Carbon Removal Law & Policy, American University ,  
“Carbon Dioxide Removal Approaches: Their Potential Role in Addressing Climate Change”,  
Lancaster Lounge, 4:30 pm

Thursday, October 10

Wil Burns class visit.

No reading.

***Public Lecture***

October 10 - Richard Alley, Professor of Geosciences, Penn State University,  
Climate Talk, Kresge, 7 pm

Tuesday, October 15

**No Class – Fall Break**

Thursday, October 17

**Different Approaches to Climate Policy**

Tim Rayner and Andrew Jordan, “Climate Change Policy in the European Union,” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Climate Science*, August 2016.

Bruce Gilley, “Authoritarian Environmentalism and China’s Approach to Climate Change,” *Environmental Politics* 21, 2 (March 2012): 287- 307.

Tuesday, October 22

**What can U.S. States Do about Climate?**

David Vogel, "Energy Efficiency and Climate Change," *California Greenin': How the Golden State Became an Environmental Leader*, Princeton University Press, 2018, Chapter 7.

\*\*\*Visit to class by Pete Didisheim, Senior Director for Advocacy,\*\*\*  
Natural Resources Defense Council of Maine

Thursday, October 24

**Acting Globally: Why is it so Difficult?**

Alexander Thompson, "Management Under Anarchy: The International Politics of Climate Change," *Climatic Change* 78, 1 (2006): 7–29.

***Public Lecture***

Thursday, October 25 – Gina McCarthy, Former EPA Administrator  
"The Future of the Planet: Climate Change & Environmental Protection," Kresge, 12:30 pm

Tuesday, October 29

**Kyoto, Copenhagen, Paris: Global Climate Agreements**

Michaelowa, "Opportunities for and alternatives to global climate regimes post-Kyoto," *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 40 (2015): 395-417.

Jen Iris Allan, "The Dangerous Incrementalism of the Paris Agreement," *Global Environmental Politics* 19, no. 1 (2019): 4-11.

**\*\*\*Explaining State Climate Policy – due in class\*\*\***

Thursday, October 31

**Non-State Actors and Climate Negotiations**

David Ciptlet, et al., "Staying power of Big Fossil," *Power in a Warming World: The New Global Politics of Climate Change and the Remaking of Environmental Inequality*, MIT Press, 2015.

John Vidal and Fiona Harvey, "Green groups walk out of UN climate talks," *The Guardian*, November 21, 2013. Available at:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/nov/21/mass-walk-out-un-climate-talks-warsaw>.

Tuesday, November 5

**Climate Justice**

C. Okereke and P. Coventry, "Climate justice and the international regime: before, during, and after Paris," *WIREs Climate Change* 7, 1 (2016): 834-851.

David Ciptlet, et al., "Contesting Climate Justice," *Power in a Warming World: The New Global Politics of Climate Change and the Remaking of Environmental Inequality*, MIT Press, 2015.

Thursday, November 7

**When the Local and Global Meet**

B. Powless, "An Indigenous movement to confront climate change," *Globalizations* 9, 3 (2012): 411-424.

Peter Newell and Adam Bumpus, "The Global Political Ecology of the Clean Development Mechanism," *Global Environmental Politics* 12, 4 (2012): 49-67.

Tuesday, November 12

**Beyond A Global Treaty**

Keohane, Robert O. and David G. Victor, "The Regime Complex for Climate Change," *Perspectives in Politics* 9:1 (March, 2011), 7-23.

Recommended: Daniel W. Drezner, "The Power and Peril of International Regime Complexity," *Perspectives on Politics* 7, 1 (2009): 65-70.

***Public Lecture***

November 13 - Joel Clement,  
Union of Concerned Scientists (and former Department of Interior official,  
"Relocating Alaskan Communities," Beam Classroom, VAC, 7 pm

Thursday, November 14

**Telling Climate Stories**

True North (Climate Documentary): Watch in class

***Public Lecture***

November 14 – Gary Langham Gary Langham, Chief Scientist, Audubon  
"Climate Change and the Power of Everyday Actions," Location and Time TBA

Tuesday, November 19

**The Power of Cities to Address Climate Change**

Michele Acuto, "City Leadership in Global Governance," *Global Governance* 19, 3 (2013): 481-98.

Jeremy Hodges and Demetrios Pogkas, "These Are the Cities Doing the Most to Combat Global Warming," Bloomberg, May 15, 2019. Available at;  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-05-15/these-are-the-14-cities-doing-the-most-to-combat-global-warming>

Thursday, November 21

**Climate Activism**

Greta Thunberg, “You did not act in time!”, Greta Thunberg's full speech to MPs,” *The Guardian*, April 23, 2019. Available at:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/apr/23/greta-thunberg-full-speech-to-mps-you-did-not-act-in-time>.

Sam Knight, “Does Extinction Rebellion Have the Solution to the Climate Crisis?,” *The New Yorker*, July 21, 2019.

EXPLORE: Extinction rebellion website: <https://rebellion.earth/>.

Tuesday, November 26

**Climate Refugees**

Issa Ibrahim Berchin, et al., “Climate change and forced migrations: An effort towards recognizing climate refugees,” *Geoforum* 84 (2017): 147-150.

Christopher Mele and Daniel Victor, “Reeling From Effects of Climate Change, Alaskan Village Votes to Relocate,” *New York Times*, August 19, 2016. Available at:  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/20/us/shishmaref-alaska-elope-vote-climate-change.html>

Thursday, November 28

**No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday**

Tuesday, December 3

**The Future of Climate Policy: Where is it headed? What can political science offer?**

Robert Keohane, “The Global Politics of Climate Change: Challenge for Political Science,” James Madison Lecture, 2014.

“84 Environmental Rules Being Rolled Back Under Trump,” *New York Times*. Available at:  
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/climate/trump-environment-rollbacks.html>

Green Party US, “Green New Deal.” Available at: [https://www.gp.org/green\\_new\\_deal](https://www.gp.org/green_new_deal)

Thursday, December 5

**Class presentations on research projects**

Tuesday, December 10

**Class presentations on research projects**

**\*\*\*Final Research Paper Due Wednesday, December 18 by 5 pm\*\*\***