

September 24, 2019

Climate Politics and Governance
(POL S 403b)

Aseem Prakash
Fall 2019

Time: Monday and Wednesday, 12:30-2:20
Location: Smith 107
Office Hours: By appointment
Office: 39 Gowen
E-mail: aseem@uw.edu
Home Page: <http://faculty.washington.edu/aseem/>

Course Objective

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time. It affects critically every aspect of our life. It is therefore not surprising that climate governance is complex and contested. There are several ways climate policies can support economic growth and create new opportunities. But climate policies can also create winners and losers and create social conflict. This undergraduate seminar will examine important policy issues in climate governance such as mitigation and adaptation policies, climate migration, climate justice, and climate finance. We will examine how well the existing approaches and institutions are working, and what new initiatives can help us respond to the climate challenge.

Readings

Most readings are uploaded on Canvas. If not, please see:

- whether the syllabus includes an embedded link to the article,
- Copy and paste the article title in <scholar.google.com> to check the possibility of downloading this article directly from the appropriate website.

This is a Device Free Class

Research suggests that the use of electronic devices in class can be distracting for you and for your colleagues. Therefore, to enhance your learning experience, students are not allowed to use phones, tablets, laptops or any Internet connectable devices. Please take notes by hand by using a pen and a note-book.

Course Expectations

This course *requires* active student participation. You are expected to energetically and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions in the following ways.

Writing Memos

Article memos

For every session, students will be assigned an article to present and discuss. The discussant-presenter should prepare a **two-page (single-spaced)** “Article Memo” which summarizes the article, examines its strengths and weaknesses, and identifies questions it raises for future research. Please email this memo to me by Sunday noon for the Monday class, and by Tuesday noon for the Wednesday class. The discussant-presenter should budget about 10 minutes for the in-class oral presentation. Remember, this is a device-free class; the presenter is welcome to bring along a printed copy of the memo. In the course of this quarter, you will probably present 3 or 4 articles.

Key questions memo

I expect seminar participants to review *all* the assigned readings prior to the class. Based on these readings for a given session, you will write a “Key questions” memo. In this memo, identify two or three questions or issues that emerge from the assigned readings, along with a rationale as to why these questions are important. Your “Key Questions Memo” should be about **one-page (single-spaced)** and reach me by Sunday noon for the Monday class, and by Tuesday noon for the Wednesday class.

I have divided the course into three modules with about **seven class sessions** for every module. **You will write 2 key question memos (for two different class sessions) from every module (this means, 6 key question memos in total).** Think of Module 1. Suppose you like readings from session 3. After reading the articles assigned for this session, think of two or three overarching questions that you believe emerge from these readings and should be discussed in the class. Of course, if you are assigned to present a specific article for session 3 (and write an article memo), you will not write a key questions memo.

Research Paper

Identify two countries, cities, or firms and compare how they are responding to climate change. Specifically:

- Identify two units you wish to study;
- Briefly explain how are they similar or different (the rationale for comparing them)?
- Specify the policies (such as mitigation and/or adaptation) you will be comparing;
- Why are you focusing on these policies; what do you think they might reveal

- about these units' climate policies;
- Do you expect the responses of these units will be similar or different? Why?;
- The "therefore what?" question: how do you think this study might move forward your understanding of climate policy.

One page outline is due October 23. Please write in regular prose and not in bullet points.

A five-page (single-spaced; excluding references and tables) research paper is due December 4. We will also schedule presentations (10 minutes per student) towards the end of the quarter

Evaluation

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Article Memos: | 30 points |
| Key Questions Memos: | 30 points |
| Class Participation: | 20 points |
| Research Paper: | 10 points |
| Research Presentation | 10 points |

Note

I reserve the right to change the syllabus without prior notice.

Religious Accommodation

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at Faculty Syllabus Guidelines and Resources.

Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form available at <https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>

Class Schedule

Module1

Session 1

Wednesday, September 25

Introduction to the course

Session 2

Monday, September 30

Overview

- [Counting money: Cities love climate policies if they generate local benefits.](#)
- [The nightmare scenario for Florida's coastal homeowners: Demand and financing could collapse before the sea consumes a single house.](#)
- [An Insurance Executive explains why we need a carbon tax.](#)
- [Climate Strikes: What They Accomplish and How They Could Have More Impact.](#)
- [Can We Make Destroying the Amazon a Crime Against Humanity?](#)

Session 3

Wednesday, October 2

Perspective and approaches

- E Ostrom. 2010. Polycentric systems for coping with collective action and global environmental change. *Global Environmental Change*, 20, 550-557.
- C. Sunstein. 2007. On the divergent American reactions to terrorism and climate change. *Columbia Law Review*, 503-557.
- J. Selby, O. Dahi, C. Fröhlich, and M. Hulme, 2017. Climate change and the Syrian civil war revisited. *Political Geography*, 60, 232-244
- [The 5 most important questions about carbon taxes, answered.](#)

Session 4

Monday, October 7

Opposition to climate mitigation

- R. Brulle. 2014. Institutionalizing delay: foundation funding and the creation of US climate change counter-movement organizations. *Climatic Change*, 122(4), 681-694.
- A McCright and R. Dunlap. 2011. Cool dudes: The denial of climate change among conservative White males in the United States. *Global Environmental Change*, 21, 1163-1172.
- [Tribes that live off Coal hold tight to Trump's promises.](#)
- [The Notre Dame Fire, The Carbon Tax and Climate Policy.](#)

Session 5

Wednesday, October 9

Barriers to climate response

- [The Fall and Rise of the Green New Deal.](#)
- [Confronting the "China Excuse:" The political logic of climate change adaptation.](#)
- [Labor Unions and the Green New Deal: Love, Hate, Or Indifference?.](#)
- [Why is California rebuilding in fire country? Because you're paying for it.](#)
- [India's Renewable Energy Transition: Clear on Targets, Slow on Jobs.](#)

Session 6

Monday, October 14

New issues

- [Carbon leakages through trade.](#)
- D. MacMartin et al. 2018. Solar geoengineering as part of an overall strategy for meeting the 1.5 C Paris target. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, 376, 20160454.
- [Framing the Green New Deal for Local Governance.](#)
- [Tree planting 'has mind-blowing potential' to tackle climate crisis.](#)

- [Industrial Agriculture, an Extraction Industry Like Fossil Fuels, a Growing Driver of Climate Change](#)

Module 2

Session 7

Wednesday, October 16

Adaptation approaches

- [N. Dolsak and A. Prakash. 2018. The politics of climate change adaptation, *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*.](#)
- [Adapt now: A Global Call for Leadership in Climate Resilience](#). (Read the Executive Summary only, pages 3-7).
- [In the waterlogged Netherlands, climate change is considered neither a hypothetical nor a drag on the economy. Instead, it's an opportunity.](#)

Session 8

Monday, October 21

Incorporating adaptation in the policy process

- T. Ingty. 2017. High mountain communities and climate change: adaptation, traditional ecological knowledge, and institutions. *Climatic Change*. 145, 41–55.
- J. Ayers, S. Huq, A. Faisal, and S. Hussain. 2014. Mainstreaming climate change adaptation into development: a case study of Bangladesh. *WIREs Climate Change*, 5, 37–51.
- L. Næss, G. Bang, S. Eriksen, and J. Vevatne. 2005. Institutional adaptation to climate change: flood responses at the municipal level in Norway. *Global Environmental Change*, 15, 125-138.

Paper outline is due

Session 9

Wednesday, October 23

Droughts and climate change

- D. Wilhite, et al. 2014. Managing drought risk in a changing climate: The role of national drought policy. *Weather and Climate Extremes*, 3, 4–13.
- A. Kiem. 2013. Drought and water policy in Australia: Challenges for the future illustrated by the issues associated with water trading and climate change adaptation in the Murray–Darling Basin. *Global Environmental Change*, 23, 1615-1626.
- Joy C.-Y. Muller. 2014. Adapting to climate change and addressing drought – learning from the Red Cross Red Crescent experiences in the Horn of Africa. *Weather and Climate Extremes*, 3, 31-36.

Session 10

Monday, October 28

Climate migration

- [The climate crisis, migration, and refugees.](#)
- [Let's Talk About Climate Migrants, Not Climate Refugees.](#)
- Nawrotzki, R. et al. 2015. Climate change as a migration driver from rural and urban Mexico. *Environmental Research Letters*, 10.
- Maldonado, J., et al. 2013. The impact of climate change on tribal communities in the US: displacement, relocation, and human rights. *Climatic Change*, 120, 601-614.

Session 11

Wednesday, October 30

Gender and climate change

- A. McCright. 2010. The effects of gender on climate change knowledge and concern in the American public. *Population and Environment*, 32, 66-87.
- S. Arora-Jonsson. 2011. Virtue and vulnerability: Discourses on women, gender and climate change. *Global Environmental Change*, 21, 744-751.

- H. Djoudi and M. Brockhaus. 2011. Is adaptation to climate change gender neutral? Lessons from communities dependent on livestock and forests in northern Mali. *International Forestry Review*, 13, 123-135.

Session 12

Monday, November 4

Climate justice

- J. Roberts and B. Parks. 2009. Ecologically unequal exchange, ecological debt, and climate justice: The history and implications of three related ideas for a new social movement. *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, 50, 385-409.
- [Carbon trading, co-pollutants, and environmental equity: Evidence from California's cap-and-trade program \(2011–2015\).](#)
- [Is carbon offsetting the solution? \(Or part of the problem?\).](#)
- [Learning from the New York experiment: Managing a just transition to a low-carbon future.](#)
- [Silicon smelter project represents big questions for PNW leaders.](#)

Module 3

Session 13: Wednesday, November 6

I have been called for Jury Duty. I will organize a guest speaker.

Session 14

Monday, November 11

Climate insurance

- E. Mills. 2009. A global review of insurance industry responses to climate change. *The Geneva Papers on Risk and Insurance-Issues and Practice*, 34, 323-359.
- [A broke, and broken, flood insurance program.](#)
- [The Jersey shore would rather fight flooding with walls than retreat.](#)
- W. Botzen, et al. 2010. Climate change and increased risk for the insurance sector: a global perspective and an assessment for the Netherlands. *Natural Hazards*, 52, 577-598.

Session 15

Wednesday, November 13

Climate finance

- [M. Jakob, J. Steckel, C. Flachsland, and L. Baumstark. 2015. Climate finance for developing country mitigation: Blessing or curse? *Climate and Development*, 7\(1\).](#)
- A. Ansar, B. Caldecott, and J. Tilbury. 2013. Stranded assets and the fossil fuel divestment campaign: what does divestment mean for the valuation of fossil fuel assets?. pages 1-18.
- [Rising seas may wipe out these Jersey towns, but they're still rated AAA.](#)

Session 16

Monday, November 18

Climate litigation

- J. Peel. 2011. Issues in climate change litigation. *Carbon & Climate Law Review*, 15.
- [Climate change warriors' latest weapon of choice is litigation.](#)
- [The unintended consequences of climate litigation.](#)
- S. McCormick,, R. Glicksman, S. Simmens, L. Paddock, D. Kim, and B. Whited. 2018. Strategies in and outcomes of climate change litigation in the United States. *Nature Climate Change*, 1.

Session 17

Wednesday, November 20

Business dimension

- S. Mirasgedis, et al. 2014. The impact of climate change on the pattern of demand for bottled water and non-alcoholic beverages. *Business Strategy and the Environment*, 23, 272–288.
- [An Unexpected Current That's Remaking American Politics.](#)
- [Why Walmart's Project Gigaton gives us hope.](#)
- [Amazon's Climate Pledge: Greenwashing Or A Game-Changer?](#)

- [Companies See Climate Change Hitting Their Bottom Lines in the Next 5 Years.](#)

Session 18

Monday, November 25

Carbon labels

- [We label fridges to show their environmental impact – why not food?](#)
- Adrian R Camilleri et al. 2018. Consumers underestimate the emissions associated with food but are aided by labels, *Nature Climate Change*.
- S. Gössling and R. Buckley. 2016. Carbon labels in tourism: persuasive communication?. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 111, 358-369.
- R. Horne. 2009. Limits to labels: The role of eco-labels in the assessment of product sustainability and routes to sustainable consumption. *International Journal of Consumer Studies*, 33, 175-182.

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Session 19

Wednesday, November 27

In-class presentations

Session 20

Monday, December 2

In-class presentations

Research Paper is due

Session 21

Wednesday, December 4

In-class presentations