#### **Climate Politics and Governance** (POL S 458A)

## Aseem Prakash Fall 2023

Class Time: Monday and Wednesday, 3:30-5:20 Smith 305

#### **Office Hours:**

By appointment, please email <aseem@uw.edu>

#### **Course Objective**

Climate change is perhaps the defining challenge of our time. Because it critically affects every aspect of our life, 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

Readings are either uploaded on Canvas or I have provided the article URL.

#### 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, during the class you are not allowed to use phones, tablets, laptops or any Internet connectable devices. Please take notes using a pen and a note book.

#### **Course Expectations**

This course <u>requires</u> 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 (except sessions 4 and 5), students will be assigned an article to present and critique. 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 Monday 9:00 am for the Monday afternoon class, and by Wednesday 9:00 am for the Wednesday afternoon class. The discussant-presenter should budget

about 10 minutes for the in-class oral presentation (no powerpoint). In the course of this quarter, you will probably be assigned to present 2 or 3 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 Monday 9:00 am for the Monday afternoon class, and by Wednesday 9:00 am for the Wednesday afternoon class.

I have divided the course into three modules with about seven class sessions for every module. You need to write 2 key question memos (for two different class sessions) from every module (this means, <mark>6 key question memos in total</mark>).

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 covered during class discussions.

Please note: If you are assigned to present a specific article for session 3 (and therefore writing the article memo), you will not write a key question memo for this session.

## **Research Paper**

Identify two countries, cities, or firms and compare how they are responding to climate change (note: you cannot write on the US, Washington state, Seattle, King County, and China). Specifically:

- Identify two units you wish to study.

- Briefly explain how they are similar or different (the rationale for comparing them)?

- Specify the policies (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?

- Therefore what? How do you think this study might move forward your understanding of climate policy?

Please write in regular prose and not in bullet points<mark>. The one-page outline is due</mark> November 7 and a five-page (single-spaced; excluding references and tables) <mark>research</mark> paper is due December 7. I recommend structuring your paper in sections and subsections.

We will also schedule presentations (10 minutes per student) towards the end of the quarter

## Evaluation

In total, you can score 100 points. To convert this into a 4-point scale, I will simply divide it by 25.

Article Memos:	30 points (10 points per memo * 3 memos)
Key Questions Memos:	30 points (5 points per memo * 6 memos)
Class Participation:	20 points
Research Paper:	10 points
<b>Research Presentation:</b>	10 points

## Total: 100 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 the 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 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 28 Syllabus and course expectations

- 1. <u>Different approaches to reducing aviation emissions: reviewing the structure-agency</u> <u>debate in climate policy.</u> <u>https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s44168-022-00001-w</u>
- 2. Did Your Handbag Help Destroy the Rainforest? <u>https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/05/style/lvmh-nike-prada-amazon-deforestation.html</u>

- 3. Texas Is the Country's Clean Energy Leader, Almost in Spite of Itself <u>https://insideclimatenews.org/news/17022022/inside-clean-energy-texas-clean-energy-leader/?utm\_source=InsideClimate+News&utm\_campaign=626923aa5a-&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_29c928ffb5-626923aa5a-327930529</u>
- 4. Think You're Making Good Climate Choices? Take This Mini-Quiz <u>https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/08/30/climate/climate-footprint-quiz.html?action=click&module=Editors%20Picks&pgtype=Homepage</u>

#### Session 2 Monday, October 3 Overview

- 5. Can we save the planet by shrinking the economy? SHERN <u>https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/22408556/save-planet-shrink-economy-degrowth</u>
- 6. In the wake of a wildfire, who gets to rebuild? MALLIH<u>https://grist.org/wildfires/in-</u>

<u>the-wake-of-a-wildfire-who-gets-</u><u>Links to an external site.</u>to-rebuild-grand-countycolorado/?utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=newsletter&utm\_campaign=daily

7. Climate Strikes: What They Accomplish and How They Could Have More Impact EDWIN <u>https://www.forbes.com/sites/prakashdolsak/2019/09/14/climate-strikes-what-they-</u>

accomplish-and-how-they-could-have-more-impact/#7c5331805eed Links to an external site.

8. A New York power line divided environmentalists. Here's what it says about the larger climate fight. LINDSAY <u>https://grist.org/energy/a-new-york-power-line-divided-environmentalists-heres-what-it-says-about-the-larger-climate-</u>

<u>fight/?utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=newsletter&utm\_campaign=daily\_Links</u> to an external site.

9. Wildfire Smoke is Erasing progress on Clean Air. MATT https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/09/22/climate/wildfire-smokepollution.html

## Session 3 Wednesday, October 5

Perspective and approaches

10. On the divergent American reactions to terrorism and climate change. Canvas. OWEN

- 11. Climate change and the Syrian civil war revisited. Canvas NOLAN
- 12. Tree planting 'has mind-blowing potential' to tackle climate crisis MATTHEW https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/04/planting-billions-trees-best-

<u>tackle-climate-crisis-scientists-canopy-emissions</u> <u>Links to an external site.</u> 13. The 'Green Energy' That Might Be Ruining the Planet. THOMAS <u>https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2021/03/26/biomass-carbon-climate-</u>

politics-477620Links to an external site.

14. The Activists Who Embrace Nuclear Power QI <u>https://www.newyorker.com/tech/annals-of-technology/the-activists-who-embrace-</u>

nuclear-power Links to an external site.

Session 4 Monday, October 10 *Global Energy Transition* Guest Speaker: Scott Montgomery Zoom link (not linked through Canvas):

- 15. Green Upheaval New Geopolitics of Energy. Canvas
- 16. The energy debate over "green colonialism" in Africa. Canvas
- 17. World Energy Outlook 2021: Executive Summary

https://prod.iea.org/reports/world-energy-outlook-2021/executive-summary Links to an external site.

Session 5 Wednesday, October 12 Climate Anxiety Guest Speaker: Dr. Robert Berley Zoom link (not linked through Canvas): https://washington.zoom.us/j/5840661928 [washington.zoom.us]

18. Apocalypse When? (Not) thinking or talking about climate change. Canvas

- 19. Resources for working with Climate emotions A collaboration between Gen Dread and The All We Can Save Project.
- 20. Recognizing Eco-Anxiety What It Is and Ways You Might Be Affected. Canvas

## Session 6 Monday, October 17

*Challenges in climate mitigation* 21. Cool dudes: The denial of climate change among conservative White males in the United States. *Canvas* 22. Advancing bipartisan decarbonization policies: lessons from state-level successes and failures. *Canvas* 

23. Do Windy Areas have more Wind Turbines: An Empirical Analysis of Wind Installed Capacity in Native Tribal Nations. *Canvas* 

24, My Native Alaskan Community Needs the Willow Oil Project <u>https://www.wsj.com/articles/my-native-alaskan-community-needs-the-willow-oil-project-inupiat-gas-subsistence-municipal-goverment-economy-</u>

<u>11664220998?mod=hp\_opin\_pos\_5#cxrecs\_s</u> <u>Links to an external site.</u>

25. Varieties of Just Transition: Climate Policy and Coal Communities in South Africa. *Canvas* 

# Session 7

## Wednesday, October 19

*Barriers to climate response* 26. How climate change could spark the next home mortgage disaster <u>https://www.politico.com/news/2020/11/30/climate-change-mortgage-housing-</u> <u>environment-433721?utm\_source=Sightline%20Institute&utm\_medium=web-</u>

<u>email&utm\_campaign=Sightline%20News%20Selections</u> <u>Links to an external site.</u>

27. African nations' dash for gas exposes division at the UN and 'hypocrisy' in Europe <u>https://www.climatechangenews.com/2022/05/25/african-nations-dash-for-gas-exposes-division-at-the-un-and-hypocrisy-in-europe/?utm\_source=Climate+Weekly&utm\_campaign=48906490f6-</u>

 $\frac{\text{europe/?utm}_source=Climate+Weekly&utm}{\text{EMAIL} CAMPAIGN 3 25 2022 14 35 COPY 01&utm medium=email&utm term}$ =0 bf939f9418-48906490f6-408097424

28. Carbon leakages through trade

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/04/climate/outsourcing-carbonemissions.html?em\_pos=small&emc=edit\_clim\_20180905&nl=climatefwd&nl\_art=2&nlid=84813424c%3Dedit\_clim\_20180905&ref=headline&te=1

29. Palm Oil Was Supposed to Help Save the Planet. Instead It Unleashed a Catastrophe.

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/20/magazine/palm-oil-borneo-climate-

catastrophe.html Links to an external site.

30. The Battle of Thacker Pass: Electric cars require a lot of lithium. A showdown in Nevada shows that getting it won't be easy. https://grist.org/climate/the-west-has-a-new-front-in-the-war-over-electriccars/?utm\_source=Sightline%20Institute&utm\_medium=webemail&utm\_campaign=Sightline%20News%20Selections

Module 2\_\_\_\_\_

## Session 8 Monday, October 24

*New issues* 31. Solar geoengineering as part of an overall strategy for meeting the 1.5 C Paris target. *Canvas* 

32. What to Do About Pig Poop? North Carolina Fights a Rising Tide. Canvas

33. Legal Experts Define a New Global Crime: 'Ecocide <u>https://insideclimatenews.org/news/22062021/ecocide-definition-panel-international-</u>

<u>crime/</u> <u>Links to an external site.</u>

34. Justice or overreach?: As crucial test looms, Big Greens are under fire <u>https://www.politico.com/news/2022/06/19/big-green-justice-environment-</u>00040148?utm\_content=Top+news%3A&utm\_source=Sightline%20Institute&utm\_m

<u>edium=web-email&utm\_campaign=Sightline%20News%20Selections</u> <u>Links to an</u> <u>external site.</u>

35. Industrial Agriculture, an Extraction Industry Like Fossil Fuels, a Growing Driver of Climate Change

https://insideclimatenews.org/news/25012019/climate-change-agriculture-farmingconsolidation-corn-soybeans-meat-cropsubsidies?utm\_source=InsideClimate+News&utm\_campaign=421af59ce8-

<u>&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_29c928ffb5-421af59ce8-327930529</u> <u>Links to</u> <u>an external site.</u>

Session 9 Wednesday, October 26 *Consumer responsibility* 

36. Consumers' preferences for carbon labels and the underlying reasoning. A mixed methods approach in 6 European countries <u>https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959652617332304?casa\_token=x\_7hui0L6eP8AAAAA:mZ7QxqiRq48Gk935TCXEiJP7kTyCC1gdf3igAS9ert8Ye7KXc1xQw</u>

<u>op-IdqiiRyL2qp\_PkKo4g\_\_Links to an external site.</u>

37. Consumer Readiness to Reduce Meat Consumption for the Purpose of Environmental Sustainability: Insights from Norway

https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/10/9/3058/htm Links to an external site.

38. Carbon labels in tourism: persuasive communication? Canvas

39. Consumer behavior and climate change: consumers need considerable assistance

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352154621000309 Links to an external site.

## Session 10 Monday, October 31

*Adaptation* 40. The politics of climate change adaptation

https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/10.1146/annurev-environ-102017-025739 Links to an external site.

41. High mountain communities and climate change: adaptation, traditional ecological knowledge, and institutions. *Canvas* 

42. Farmworkers at Risk <u>https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/farmworkers-at-risk-report-2019-web.pdf</u>

43. In the waterlogged Netherlands, climate change is considered neither a hypothetical nor a drag on the economy. Instead, it's an opportunity. <u>https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/06/15/world/europe/climate-change-</u>

rotterdam.html Links to an external site.

Session 11 Wednesday, November 2 Incorporating adaptation in the policy process

44. Exploring the Adaptation-Mitigation Relationship: Does Information on the Costs of Adapting to Climate Change Influence Support for Mitigation? Canvas

45. Outdoor Recreation and Climate Adaptation https://houserepublicans.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/OrcaPlanReport-

FINAL-112421.pdf Links to an external site.

46. Lessons from New York: What makes a community turn against climate adaptation? https://grist.org/climate/lessons-from-new-vork-what-makes-a-community-turnagainst-climate-

adaptation/?utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=newsletter&utm\_campaign=daily Links to an external site.

47. The Jersey shore would rather fight flooding with walls than retreat https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2017-05-04/the-jersey-shore-would-

rather-fight-flooding-with-walls-than-retreat Links to an external site.

Paper outline is due Session 12 Monday, November 7 Droughts and climate change 48. Wall Street Eves Billions in Colorado's Water https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/03/business/colorado-river-water-

rights.html?action=click&module=Well&pgtype=Homepage&section=Business Links to an external site.

49. In southeastern Arizona, farms drill a half-mile deep while families pay the price https://www.azcentral.com/in-depth/news/local/arizonaenvironment/2019/12/05/wells-drying-up-around-willcox-where-effort-change-

groundwater-rules-failed/2357906001/ Links to an external site.

50. 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. Canvas

51. First solar canal project is a win for water, energy, air and climate in California https://theconversation.com/first-solar-canal-project-is-a-win-for-water-energy-air-

and-climate-in-california-177433 Links to an external site.

#### Session 13 Wednesday, November 9

*Climate migration* 52. Climate change as a migration driver from rural and urban Mexico. Canvas.

53. Breaking a Vicious Circle of Climate Change in Zimbabwe

https://longnow.org/ideas/02022/09/14/zimbabwe-climate-migration-wildlife/ Links to an external site.

54. Welcoming climate refugees to the United States: Do attitudes depend on refugee origins, numbers, or permanence? *Canvas*.

55. Willingness to Help Climate Migrants: A Survey Experiment in the Korail Slum of Dhaka, Bangladesh. *Canvas* 

\_Module 3 \_\_\_\_\_

## Session 14 Monday, November 14

*Gender and climate change* 56. Effects of gender on climate change knowledge and concern in the American public. *Canvas*.

57. Virtue and vulnerability: Discourses on women, gender and climate change. Canvas

58. Is adaptation to climate change gender neutral? Lessons from communities dependent on livestock and forests in northern Mali. *Canvas* 

59. The Role of Gender and Caste in Climate Adaptation Strategies in Nepal <u>https://bioone.org/journals/mountain-research-and-development/volume-31/issue-4/MRD-JOURNAL-D-10-00085.1/The-Role-of-Gender-and-Caste-in-Climate-</u>

Adaptation-Strategies/10.1659/MRD-JOURNAL-D-10-00085.1.full Links to an external site.

Session 15 Wednesday, November 16 *Climate justice* 60. Three Faces of Climate Justice. *Canvas*  61. A Power Struggle Over Cobalt Rattles the Clean Energy Revolution <u>https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/20/world/china-congo-</u>

<u>cobalt.html?action=click&module=RelatedLinks&pgtype=Article</u> <u>Links to an</u> <u>external site.</u>

62. Can California's Cap and Trade Actually Address Environmental Justice? <u>https://www.yesmagazine.org/environment/2020/11/20/california-pollution-cap-trade?utm\_source=Sightline%20Institute&utm\_medium=web-</u>

<u>email&utm\_campaign=Sightline%20News%20Selections</u> <u>Links to an external site.</u> 63. Is carbon offsetting the solution? (Or part of the problem?) <u>https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2007/jun/10/ethicalliving.carbonemissio</u>

## ns Links to an external site.

64. Urban Heatwaves Are Worse For Low-Income Neighborhoods <u>https://www.forbes.com/sites/prakashdolsak/2020/08/14/urban-heatwaves-are-</u>

worse-for-low-income-neighborhoods/#560f3c0819d5 Links to an external site.

# Session 16

Monday, November 21 *Climate finance and insurance* 65. Wildfires Hasten Another Climate Crisis: Homeowners Who Can't Get Insurance <u>https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/02/climate/wildfires-</u> insurance.html?action=click&module=Well&pgtype=Homepage&section=Climate%20a

nd%20Environment Links to an external site.

66. A broke, and broken, flood insurance program <u>https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/04/business/a-broke-and-broken-flood-insurance-program.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=first-column-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news&\_r=0</u>

Links to an external site.

67. Signaling climate resilience to municipal bond markets: does membership in adaptation-focused voluntary clubs affect bond rating? *Canvas* 

68. Federal Report Warns of Financial Havoc From Climate Change <u>https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/08/climate/climate-change-financial-markets.html?utm\_source=Sightline%20Institute&utm\_medium=web-</u>

<u>email&utm\_campaign=Sightline%20News%20Selections</u> <u>Links to an external site.</u> 69. A Managed decline for Oil-Dependent Regions: How sovereign wealth funds can support a just transition to clean energy. https://www.sightline.org/2020/09/08/a-managed-decline-for-oil-dependentregions/?utm\_source=Sightline%20Institute&utm\_medium=web-

<u>email&utm\_campaign=Sightline%20News%20Selections</u> <u>Links to an external site.</u>

## Session 17 Wednesday, November 23

*Business dimension* 70. Performative and political: Corporate constructions of climate change risk <u>https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1350508415572038?casa\_token=9ibud</u> <u>zGktv8AAAAA%3AYmOOngdpY3\_CrMgPyCU\_rDVXzhG3UDfI8Cg4mtOBPHuGt8gIK</u>

<u>MgcUqrrttEtB2IjFlZXWvdh\_osQ</u> <u>Links to an external site.</u>

71. Milton Friedman Versus Jeff Bezos on Climate Leadership <u>https://www.theregreview.org/2020/12/28/dolsak-griffin-prakash-milton-friedman-</u>

versus-jeff-bezos-climate-leadership/ Links to an external site.

72. An ESG Reckoning Is Coming

https://hbr.org/2021/03/an-esg-reckoning-is-coming Links to an external site.

73. The impact of climate change on the pattern of demand for bottled water and non-alcoholic beverages. *Canvas* 

74. The Power to Stay: Climate, Cocoa, and the Politics of Displacement. Canvas

Session 18 Wednesday, November 30 In-class presentations

Session 19 Monday, December 5 In-class presentations

Research Paper is due

Session 20 Wednesday, December 7 In-class presentations