

HGO4301: The Social Dimensions of Climate Change

(formerly SOSGEO4301 Global Environmental Change)

This course focuses on the social dimensions of climate change, emphasizing different approaches to understanding and addressing what climate change means for individuals, communities, ecosystems, species and humanity. The lectures and readings highlight social scientific approaches to climate change, particularly how different framings of the problem influence the types of solutions that are pursued or ignored. Students will be introduced to and reflect upon key concepts such as vulnerability, adaptation and resilience. The contribution of geographers to social understandings of climate change will be emphasized in the seminars, where each student will present the work of one geographer within the context of the course curriculum. There will be a written exam on understandings of theories, approaches, and concepts, as well as a course paper that focuses on theoretical, political, and practical aspects of climate change adaptation.

1. Course Introduction: Climate Change and Society

(Maslin 2014) (Nielsen 2016) (K. O'Brien 2011)

2. Climate change: The problem of the century?

(Butzer and Endfield 2012) (Swyngedouw 2010) (Rickards et al. 2014)

3. Responsibility: understanding the uneven drivers and impacts of climate change

(Pelling, Manuel-Navarrete, and Redclift 2011) (Shue 2012) (Rosa and Dietz 2012) (Antonio and Clark 2015)

4. Climate change, conflict and migration

(Liverman 2009) (Farbotko and Lazrus 2012) (Hamilton et al. 2016) (Ide 2017)

5. Vulnerability and adaptation research

(Cameron 2009) (Smit and Wandel 2006) (Pelling 2011) (Ribot 2014)

6. Adaptation discourses, policies and practices

(Dannevig and Hovelsrud 2015) (Berrang-Ford, Ford, and Paterson 2011) (Head 2010) (Kates, Travis, and Wilbanks 2012)

7. Adaptation and development

(Bassett and Fogelman 2013) (Ireland 2012) (Eriksen et al. 2015) (Taylor 2013)

8. Cultural and ethical perspectives on climate change

(Adger et al. 2013) (Gardiner 2004) (Norgaard 2006) (K. L. O'Brien and Wolf 2010)

9. Climate change as an adaptive challenge

(Adger et al. 2009) (New 2011) (Barnett and O'Neill 2010) (K. O'Brien and Selboe 2015)

10. Are we Resilient to Climate Change?

(Olsson et al. 2015) (Folke et al. 2010) (Barnett et al. 2016) (O'Brien 2012)

Written exam: 50% (Concepts, theories, practices)

Course Paper: 50% (Adaptation theory, policy or practice)

Pensum H17

Book: Maslin, Mark. 2014. *Climate Change: A Very Short Introduction*. 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (182 pp)

Articles/chapters (@ = online, * = compendium)

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@Adger, W. Neil, Suraje Dessai, Marisa Goulden, Mike Hulme, Irene Lorenzoni, Donald R. Nelson, Lars Otto Naess, Johanna Wolf, and Anita Wreford. 2009. "Are There Social Limits to Adaptation to Climate Change?" *Climatic Change* 93 (3–4): 335–54. doi:10.1007/s10584-008-9520-z.

*Antonio, Robert J., and Brett Clark. 2015. "The Climate Change Divide in Social Theory." In *Climate Change and Society*, edited by Riley E. Dunlap and Robert J. Brulle, 333–68. Oxford University Press. <http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199356102.001.0001/acprof-9780199356102-chapter-11>.

@Barnett, Jon, and Saffron O'Neill. 2010. "Maladaptation." *Global Environmental Change* 20 (2): 211–13. doi:10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2009.11.004.

@Barnett, Jon et al. 2016. A Science of Loss. *Nature Climate Change* 6: 976-978.

@Bassett, Thomas J., and Charles Fogelman. 2013. "Déjà vu or Something New? The Adaptation Concept in the Climate Change Literature." *Geoforum* 48 (August): 42–53. doi:10.1016/j.geoforum.2013.04.010.

@Berrang-Ford, Lea, James D. Ford, and Jaclyn Paterson. 2011. "Are We Adapting to Climate Change?" *Global Environmental Change* 21 (1): 25–33. doi:10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2010.09.012.

@Brown, Katrina. 2014. "Global Environmental Change I: A Social Turn for Resilience?" *Progress in Human Geography* 38 (1): 107–17. doi:10.1177/0309132513498837.

@Butzer, Karl W., and Georgina H. Endfield. 2012. "Critical Perspectives on Historical Collapse." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 109 (10): 3628–31. doi:10.1073/pnas.1114772109.

@Cameron, Emilie. 2009. "Summer Stories: (Re)Ordering the Canadian Arctic." *Antipode* 41 (1): 216–19. doi:10.1111/j.1467-8330.2008.00667.x.

@Dannevig, Halvor, and Grete K. Hovelsrud. 2015. "Understanding the Need for Adaptation in a Natural Resource Dependent Community in Northern Norway: Issue Salience, Knowledge and Values." *Climatic Change* 135 (2): 261–75. doi:10.1007/s10584-015-1557-1.

*Eriksen, Siri, Tor Håkon Inderberg, Karen O'Brien, and Linda Sygna. 2015. "Introduction: Development as Usual Is Not Enough." In *Climate Change Adaptation and Development: Transforming Paradigms and Practices*, 1–18. Routledge.

@Farbotko, Carol, and Heather Lazrus. 2012. "The First Climate Refugees? Contesting Global Narratives of Climate Change in Tuvalu." *Global Environmental Change, Adding Insult to Injury: Climate Change, Social Stratification, and the Inequities of Intervention*, 22 (2): 382–90. doi:10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2011.11.014.

@Folke, Carl, Stephen Carpenter, Brian Walker, Marten Scheffer, Terry Chapin, and Johan Rockström. 2010. "Resilience Thinking: Integrating Resilience, Adaptability and Transformability." *Ecology and Society* 15 (4). doi:10.5751/ES-03610-150420.

@Gardiner, Stephen M. 2004. "Ethics and Global Climate Change." *Ethics* 114 (3): 555–600. doi:10.1086/382247.

@Hamilton, Lawrence C., Kei Saito, Philip A. Loring, Richard B. Lammers, and Henry P. Huntington. 2016. "Climigration? Population and Climate Change in Arctic Alaska." *Population and Environment* 38 (2): 115–33. doi:10.1007/s11111-016-0259-6.

@Head, Lesley. 2010. "Cultural Ecology: Adaptation - Retrofitting a Concept?" *Progress in Human Geography* 34 (2): 234–42. doi:10.1177/0309132509338978.

@Ide, Tobias. 2017. "Research Methods for Exploring the Links between Climate Change and Conflict." *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, January, n/a-n/a. doi:10.1002/wcc.456.

@Ireland, Philip. 2012. "Climate Change Adaptation: Business-as-usual Aid and Development or an Emerging Discourse for Change?" *International Journal of Development Issues* 11 (2): 92–110. doi:10.1108/14468951211241100.

@Kates, Robert W., William R. Travis, and Thomas J. Wilbanks. 2012. "Transformational Adaptation When Incremental Adaptations to Climate Change Are Insufficient." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 109 (19): 7156–61. doi:10.1073/pnas.1115521109.

@Liverman, Diana. 2009. "The Geopolitics of Climate Change: Avoiding Determinism, Fostering Sustainable Development: An Editorial Comment." *Climatic Change* 96 (1–2): 7–11. doi:10.1007/s10584-009-9638-7.

@Lövbrand, Eva, Silke Beck, Jason Chilvers, Tim Forsyth, Johan Hedrén, Mike Hulme, Rolf Lidskog, and Eleftheria Vasileiadou. 2015. "Who Speaks for the Future of Earth? How Critical Social Science Can Extend the Conversation on the Anthropocene." *Global Environmental Change* 32 (May): 211–18. doi:10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2015.03.012.

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@O'Brien, Karen. 2011. "Responding to Environmental Change: A New Age for Human Geography?" *Progress in Human Geography* 35 (4): 542–49. doi:10.1177/0309132510377573.

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@O'Brien, Karen L., and Johanna Wolf. 2010. "A Values-Based Approach to Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change." *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change* 1 (2): 232–42. doi:10.1002/wcc.30.

*O'Brien, Karen, and Elin Selboe. 2015. "Climate Change as an Adaptive Challenge." In *The Adaptive Challenge of Climate Change*, 346. New York: Cambridge University Press.

@Olsson, Lennart, Anne Jerneck, Henrik Thoren, Johannes Persson, and David O'Byrne. 2015. "Why Resilience Is Unappealing to Social Science: Theoretical and Empirical Investigations of the Scientific Use of Resilience." *Science Advances* 1 (4): e1400217. doi:10.1126/sciadv.1400217.

*Pelling, Mark. 2011. *Adaptation to Climate Change: From Resilience to Transformation*. London ; New York: Routledge. (Chapter 1)

@Pelling, Mark, David Manuel-Navarrete, and M. R. Redclift, eds. 2011. *Climate Change and the Crisis of Capitalism*. New York: Routledge.

@Ribot, Jesse. 2014. "Cause and Response: Vulnerability and Climate in the Anthropocene." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 41 (5): 667–705. doi:10.1080/03066150.2014.894911.

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