

# Contemporary Political Issues: Climate Change

POLI 102  
SUMMER I 2019

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**Office Hours:** by appointment

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## Course Description

From the CofC catalog:

An introductory course for majors and non-majors that emphasizes the analysis of current domestic and international issues. Issues covered will vary from semester to semester.

For this course we will be examining the issue of **climate change**. Specifically, we will use the issue of climate change to examine the policymaking process in the United States, explore how politics impacts policymaking, and examine why the United States has been unable, at the federal level, to develop policy approaches to address climate change.

## Course Goals and Learning Objectives

### Political Science Learning Outcomes

After taking this course:

- Students will become familiar with a number of contemporary political issues and better understand their make-up and importance
- Students will understand how different political issues are assessed by different philosophical and ideological traditions
- Students will be able to effectively write and develop arguments
- Students will be able to better comprehend other's views and formulate, defend their own positions

### General Social Science Education Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students should be able to apply social science concepts, models or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions or social institutions. This will be assessed in the final exam.

## Delivery Format

This is an asynchronous online course, and so it is largely self-paced. Students must have access to a **computer** with **high-speed internet access** throughout the course. In addition, students must have access to **OAKS** and *should check OAKS frequently (AT LEAST every other day) to be sure not to fall behind*. Finally, students must have access to their **CofC email**. **Computer failure/unavailability does not constitute an excuse for not completing assignments by the due date.**

It is essential that students stay on top of the course assignments. I will post due dates, but it is your responsibility to make sure you don't get behind, especially in a class this short. Do not make the mistake of thinking this is an easy class because we're meeting online, or an easy class because it's meeting over the summer. The material is quite difficult, and will take a lot of effort on your part to master. *A Summer I class that meets face-to-face normally entails three hours of classroom time per weekday, plus reading and homework each night. The workload for this class will be the same, except our classroom will be OAKS.*

## Technical Issues

If you have technical problems, please contact the Student Computing Support Desk at 843.953.8000 or email [studentcomputingsupport@cofc.edu](mailto:studentcomputingsupport@cofc.edu).

## Contacting the Professor

If you have questions about course related material, and/or course procedures please *post your question to the Course Questions discussion board on OAKS*, so that other students can benefit from your questions and the answer. I will respond to discussion board questions within 24 hours, *if not sooner*. If you are having problems with *course material*, please feel free to email me at [nowlinmc@cofc.edu](mailto:nowlinmc@cofc.edu). #### Email Policy

I tend to get quite a few emails, so here are a few things to note to make the process easier for us both.

1. Please allow 24 hours for a response from me before sending a second email.
2. Emails asking questions that are easily answered by looking at the syllabus will not receive a response.
3. Emails asking for extra credit opportunities and/or a chance to do "make-up" work will not receive a response.
4. Emails asking for an extension on an assignment will not receive a response.
5. Assignments must be turned in on the dropbox on OAKS and will not be accepted by email under any circumstances, including "issues with OAKS."
6. If you are having a technical issue with OAKS, I will not be able to help you, so please contact the Student Computing Support Desk.

## Required Materials

- Access to [OAKS](#). We will make extensive use of OAKS in this course and several of its tools including Discussion Boards, Quizzes, and Dropbox. Tutorials for each of these tools can be found [here](#).
- *Readings*:
  - *Book*: Nowlin, Matthew C. 2019. *Environmental Policymaking in an Era of Climate Change*. A pre-print version of the book is available as a pdf on OAKS.
  - Additional readings will be available on [OAKS](#).

## Navigating This Course

Course material will be organized into 4 content modules that you will be able to access on OAKS beginning each Tuesday starting on Tuesday, June 4th. Each module will consist of:

- Course lectures and/or lecture notes
- Video
- Discussion boards
- Module quiz

Each module will be made available at 7:00am on each Tuesday, and assignments within each module are due by *11:59pm EST on each Monday*. **Late work will not be accepted under any circumstances.**

## Assignments and Due Dates

Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance on 4 module quizzes, 16 discussion board posts, 4 case memos, a mid-term exam, and a final exam. Detailed instructions for each assignment will be available on OAKS.

Assignment	Possible Points	% of Grade
Module quizzes	100 (total)	12.5%
Discussion boards	100 (total)	12.5%
Current events	100 (total)	12.5%
Mid-term exam	200	25%
Final exam	200	25%
<b>Total</b>	800	100%

## Module Quizzes

Each of the 4 modules will have a 10 question quiz over the readings and lectures for that module. You can use course materials for the quiz, but you must be take each quiz by yourself. *Once you begin the quiz you will 20 minutes to complete it.* Each quiz is worth up to *25 points*. *Module quizzes are due by 11:59pm EST on each Monday.*

## Discussion Boards

Within each module there will be *two* discussion boards. The first discussion board will involve a discussion question from the readings and the second discussion board will involve a discussion question from the video. For each discussion board you must a) provide an *answer* to the discussion question and b) *comment* on one other students answer. Each time you post, it should be about a paragraph. Note that you will not be able to comment on another student's post until you provide your answer to the question. Each post is worth up *12.5 points*. *Discussions will end at 11:59pm EST on Monday.*

*You should not make any statement to or about anyone in an email or discussion board that you would not make in person. Be respectful of your classmates. In this course we are addressing an issue that is politically controversial. All discussions will be respectful to differing views. However, this course will be about learning to approach policy issues as scholars and analysts, not as partisans for one particular point of view.*

## Current Events

Each week you will and summarize a current news story related to climate change. You **must** find a story from the [New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#), or the [Post and Courier](#). Once you find a story, you will post a one paragraph summary of the story, a one paragraph discussion relating the story to a concept within the module, and a link to the story on the Current Events discussion board.

## Mid-term exam

The mid-term exam will be available on OAKS starting Monday June 17th at 7:00am and *must be completed by 11:59pm EST on June 17th*. The exam will be posted and taken in OAKS. Exam questions will consist of three short essay questions covering material from module's 1 and 2 including lectures, readings, videos, and/or course discussion from the discussion boards within each module. *You are allowed to use course material for the exam, however, you must take the exam on your own.*

## Final exam

The final exam will be available on OAKS starting Monday July 1st at 7:00am and *must be completed by 11:59pm EST on July 1st*. The exam will be posted and taken in OAKS. Exam questions will consist of three short essay questions covering material from module's 3 and 4 including lectures, readings, videos, and/or course discussion from the discussion boards within each module. *You are allowed to use course material for the exam, however, you must take the exam on your own.* The final is **not** comprehensive and will only cover material from module's 3 and 4.

## Grades

There are **800** possible points for this course. Grades will be allocated based on your earned points and calculated as a percentage of **800**. A: 94 to 100%; A-: 90 to 93%; B+: 87 to 89%; B: 83 to 86%; B-: 80 to 82%; C+: 77 to 79%; C: 73 to 76%; C-: 70 to 72%; D+: 67 to 69%; D: 63 to 67%; D-: 60 to 62%; F: 59% and below.

## Course Content

The following modules will be on OAKS and made available on the dates indicated. Course content and schedule is subject to change. Changes will be announced through email.

### Module 1: Climate Change and Environmental Policymaking

Available 7:00 AM EST on June 4th

- *Readings:*
  - Nowlin, chapter 1: *Introduction*
  - Nowlin, chapter 2: *A Framework for Environmental Policymaking*
  - Climate science resources on [OAKS](#)
- *Video:* [Climate Change: The Facts](#)

### Module 2: Policy Development and Value Systems

Available 7:00am EST on June 11th

- *Readings:*
  - Nowlin, chapter 3: *The Green State and the Climate Change Era*
  - Nowlin, chapter 4: *Value Systems and Environmental Policy*
- *Video(s):*
  - [TED Talk: Katherine Hayhoe](#)
  - [VICE: The Cost Of Climate Change](#)
- **Mid-Term Exam available on June 17th from 7:00am to 11:59pm**

### Module 3: Agenda-setting and Institutions

Available 7:00am EST on June 18th

- *Readings:*
  - Nowlin, chapter 5: *Agenda-Setting and Issue Definitions in Climate Change Policymaking*
  - Nowlin, chapter 6: *Pathways and Pivots: Macro-Institutions and Climate Change Policy*
- *Video:* [Climate of Doubt](#)

## Module 4: The Climate Change Policy Regime

Available 7:00am EST on June 25th

- *Readings:*
  - Nowlin, chapter 7: *The Networked Subsystems, Institutions, and Actors of the Climate Change Regime*
  - Nowlin, chapter 8: *Conclusion*
- *Video:* [War on the EPA](#)
- **Final Exam available on July 1st from 7:00am to 11:59pm**

## **Important Information**

### **Center for Student Learning**

I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning's (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL [website](#) or call (843) 953-5635.

### **Students with Disabilities**

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the [Center for Disability Services](#) located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me at least one week before any accommodation is needed.

### **Cheating or Plagiarism**

A grade of zero will be given to anyone cheating on any exam, homework assignment or committing plagiarism in a paper. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as ones own ideas, the words, writings, music, graphs/charts, etc that were created by another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. It does not matter from where the material is borrowed—a book, article, material off the web, another student's paper—all constitute plagiarism unless the source of the work is fully identified and credited. Plagiarism is cheating and a violation of academic and personal integrity and will not be tolerated. It carries extremely serious consequences. To avoid plagiarism it is necessary when using a phrase, a distinctive idea, concept or sentence from another source to reference that source in your text, a footnote, or end-note. Please contact me if you need assistance in citing a source.

### **Religious Holiday Policy**

It is the policy of the College to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Please see me immediately if you will need to miss class any time during this semester.