

EESC V1003 Climate and Society Case Studies

Updated August 23, 2010

Registration

You can [register](#) for this course online or by phone. The course consists of three credits and does not have a related lab section.

Prerequisites

There are no official prerequisite courses needed to take this class, although students are expected to use the basic science and quantitative skills that got them into Columbia. The course is designed for first- and second-year undergraduates with entry-level skills in physical sciences, mathematics, social studies, and economics. All of what you are expected to know and learn in this class can be derived from the lectures and readings.

Overview

Lectures

Lectures meet from **910 - 1025 AM, Monday and Wednesday** in **503 Hamilton**.

Homework

There will be six homework assignments for the semester. The highest five homework grades will be used to calculate your overall homework grade. Note that homework must be your own work always; evidence to the contrary will result in a zero entered for your entire semester homework grade

Textbook and readings, and the iClicker

Most of the required readings are available as PDF files accessible directly from this website.

There is one required textbook for this class, plus the purchase of an iClicker - I have preordered both for this class and that are for sale (only) at Book Culture.

Global Warming: Understanding the Forecast, by David Archer (2008). If you purchase this book you want to be sure to get the 2008 printing as the original, first printing had quite a few typos. You can also purchase this from [Amazon](#) or other online sources.

We'll also be using "**iClickers**" in this class and they too are available at Book Culture. These required devices allow you as students to participate interactively with the lectures - questions will appear and you can submit your answer in realtime with a TV-clicker device and we can sense the class' understanding of the subject matter. This system works great for the larger class sizes we normally have for this course. You can purchase these new

from Book Culture (\$25-30), or new or used on eBay. Both new and used iClickers will work for this class as long as they, themselves function.

Here is a [short video](#) explaining what iClickers are and why we use them.

Some key texts for the class and for your projects:

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 4th Assessment Report (IPCC-AR4, 2007)

[Summary](#), Chapters [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [9](#), [10](#), [11](#), [FAQs](#)

National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council: *Abrupt Climate Change - Inevitable Surprises* (NAS-NRC, 2003)

[Front Matter](#), [Summary](#), Chapters [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [Color Plates](#)

Project

There will be no end-of-term team project for Fall, 2010. In past years, the students teamed up in small groups of 2-4 to research and publish an online web poster project addressing an environmental problem or question with science and policy dimensions. The class has become too large for this kind of team project.

Tests

There will be a total of three exams, one after each of the three modules (ozone depletion, El Niño, and global warming). The final exam is cumulative but largely focuses on global warming content of the last half of the semester.

Grading

The final grade for the class is determined using the following weights:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	25%
Final Exam	30%
Attendance	10%
Homework	15%

How did students do in previous years? [Have a look](#)..

Lead Professor:

[Prof. Peter B. deMenocal](#)

Dept. of Earth and Environmental Science

peter@ldeo.columbia.edu

TAs and Support

Erin Coughlan, TA

coughlan.erin@gmail.com

Linda Pistolesi, Webmaster and Coordinator

lip1@ideo.columbia.edu

Office Hours

The TA and I are available for your questions. We will set up formal office hours in the beginning of the semester. We are also always available for questions by phone or by email.