Course Title:
Seminar in Economic Geography: Societal and Economic Impacts of Climate Change

Course Number:
GEOG 6230-221

Course Description:
This course will provide an overview of the mutual interactions of climate and human activities, and will also examine historical examples of significant climatic impacts. We will investigate the nature of the Earth’s climate and present a synthesis of contemporary scientific ideas about the climate of the earth and its environmental and societal impacts. Topics to be covered include examples of historic impacts of climate, and the potential economic and societal impacts of future climatic change as well as strategies for addressing climatic problems.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
Dates: November 29-December 4, 2011
Hours: Tue-Fri 6:00-9:30 p.m.; Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: October 31, 2011

Site Director:
Bruce Toland. Assistant: Taylor Chavis. Patton Barracks, Bldg. 106, Room 109, Heidelberg, Germany. Phone: 373-7919 or CIV 06221-17-7919; Fax: 06221-16-9382; E-mail: apheidelberg@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: John Scott Greene, Ph.D.
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University of Oklahoma
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Norman, OK 73019
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E-mail Address: jgreene@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
1. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.
Course Objectives:
The overall objectives are to understand the mutual interactions between climate and human society and to investigate potential adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:
The course format is lecture and group discussion. Grades will be based upon the total points accumulated by the end of the course. There will also be a final at the end of the course which will be worth 30% of the grade. Students will also be expected to complete pre- and post-class, and in-class exercises and a term paper worth a total of 70% of the final grade. The specific percentage breakdown of these items is as follows: the pre-class book report will be worth 15% of the grade, the post-class paper will be 35% of the grade, and the in-class exercises will be worth the remaining 20%. The exercises and term paper are intended to foster understanding of particular problems, solutions, and management strategies, and to broaden personal responses and critical thinking to include multicultural perspectives and approaches. There will be several short writing assignments and in-class participatory activities as well.

Additional Pre- and Post-Seminar Assignments: In addition to the class schedule outline below, there is an additional assignment that will be due before class, and an assignment that will be due after the course ends.

Pre-Seminar Assignment: The goal of this assignment is to examine how historical examples of climatic impacts are portrayed in literature. Ideally, this would involve reading a fiction book where climate or climatic variability plays an important role. However, there are many interesting non-fiction books on this topic as well, and you may read one of those if you prefer. The final report will consist of an essay (4-5 pages, approximately 1000-1500 words) reviewing the book while focusing specifically on the role that climate played in the story that you will have read. A list of suggested books is found on learn.ou.edu

Post-Seminar Assignment: As part of the course, each student is also expected to prepare a research paper on a topic relevant to the items discussed in class. Each term paper (of at least 15 pages) will focus on a particular economic impact, geographic region and/or environmental/climatic problem. Specific details will be discussed in class.

Due Date: Two weeks after the in-class portion ends.

Class Schedule: The course will track climate changes and economic and societal impacts and responses past, present, and future. Topics to be discussed include:

1. Introduction and Overview
2. A trip on the Wayback Machine (Climates of the Distant Past)
3. Examples of Climate and History – The rise and fall of the Norse Greenland colony
4. Examples of Climate and History – Drought and the Mayans and Anasazi
5. Examples of Climate and History – Medieval Europe (aka climate and witchburning)
6. Examples of Climate and History – The Dust bowl and its implications
7. Ozone in the Atmosphere and its impacts
8. Acid Rain
9. Climate, Health, and Comfort
10. Science of Global Warming
11. Impacts of Global Warming
12. Future Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise),
- plagiarism,
- falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement;
- assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA

John Scott Greene, Ph.D.

Education
- 1994 Ph.D., Climatology, University of Delaware
- 1990 M.A., Geography, University of Hawaii, Manoa
- 1987 B.A., Majors in Applied Mathematics & Geography, University of California, Berkeley

Current Positions
- Advanced Programs Professor since 2000
- Professor of Geography, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK
- Director, Environmental Verification and Analysis Center, University of Oklahoma
- Director, Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
- GEOG 6413 Seminar on the Socio-Economic Impacts of Climate Change
- GEOG 5113 Quantitative Methods in Geographic Research
- GEOG 6240 Seminar in Resource Geography

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
- Applied Climatology
- Environmental Impacts of Climate and Climate Change
- Geography of Renewable Energy
- Statistical Techniques

Representative Publications and Presentations

Representative Honors and Awards Received
- Tromp Scientific Award (This award is given by the International Society of Biometeorology once every three years for outstanding research in biometeorology)
- University of Oklahoma Excellence in Research Award
- University of Oklahoma Teaching Scholars Initiative Award for Outstanding teaching
- US Department of Energy National award for Outstanding Wind Energy Research and Outreach

Major Professional Affiliations
- American Geophysical Union
- Association of American Geographers
- International Society of Biometeorology