



CLIMATE JUSTICE

Philosophy 3850f

Professor: Dr. Steve D'Arcy

Times & Location: Tues. 2:30pm-3:30pm, Thurs. 3:30pm-5:30pm (Huron New Academic Building H111)

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Office Hours: 12:30pm to 2:00pm, Mondays and Tuesdays (Huron, Valley Wing, V120)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Climate change affects everyone, but some are affected more adversely than others. Moreover, the burdens of preventing or mitigating its effects can fall unevenly on different people, depending on factors like race and class. Many Indigenous, environmentalist, anti-racist, feminist and labour movements propose to view these issues through the lens of climate justice. What is climate justice? How might it impact the law, public policy and social movements?

In this course, we explore the theme of climate justice by delving deeply into three perspectives: (1) an anti-statist, anti-capitalist perspective proposed by Joel Wainwright and Geoff Mann in their book, *Climate Leviathan: A Political Theory of our Planetary Future* (2020), (2) an Indigenous decolonial perspective proposed by Anishinaabe philosopher Kyle Powys Whyte, in several articles, and (3) a democratic socialist perspective proposed by Kate Aronoff, Alyssa Battistoni, Daniel Aldana Cohen, and Thea Riofrancos in their book, *A Planet to Win: Why We Need a Green New Deal* (2019).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The readings, lectures, and class discussions should prepare us to evaluate and apply political and philosophical perspectives on climate justice, in order to assess the merits of various ways of thinking about the requirements of climate justice and developing strategies to achieve climate justice. By the end of the course, students should be able to carefully weigh considerations of social justice, democratic legitimacy, ecological sustainability, and public welfare, and to articulate verbally and in writing the implications of these (and other) values for the assessment of particular perspectives on climate justice.

CLASSROOM METHODS

The classes will take the form of weekly lectures, with opportunity for discussion and questions. In order to fully understand and benefit from the lectures, and to contribute fully and effectively to class discussions, students are urged to do the assigned reading prior to the lectures, and to come to class with questions and insights about the readings, to be addressed during the class discussions. Regular class attendance (or equivalent) is required and necessary for success in the course.

- ✓ **Important Note:** classroom methods may need to be adjusted in ways not foreseen in advance, due to the pandemic.

GRADE COMPONENTS

- 1. Short Paper on *Climate Leviathan***
Worth 30% of final grade; details to be announced. (2% per essay grade late penalty each day)
Due no later than the beginning of class on 12 October, 1,000-1,200 words in length
- 2. Short Paper on the work of Kyle Powys Whyte**
Worth 30% of final grade; details to be announced. (2% per essay grade late penalty each day)
Due no later than the beginning of class on 11 November, 1,000-1,200 words in length
- 3. Short Paper on *A Planet to Win: The Case for a Green New Deal***
Worth 30% of final grade; details to be announced. (2% per essay grade late penalty each day)
Due no later than the beginning of class on 8 December, 1,000-1,200 words in length
- 4. Attendance, Participation, and Engagement**
Worth 10% of final grade.

REQUIRED READINGS

Instructions on how to access the course readings can be found on the “Overview” tab in the course OWL site. If you have any difficulty accessing an assigned reading, contact the instructor at sdarcy@huron.uwo.ca

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES and READINGS

9 September: Introduction to the Course

Reading: Course Outline

14 September: The Crisis Context

Reading: IPCC, “Climate Change Widespread, Rapid, and Intensifying” (9 August 2021)

16 September: Hobbes and Schmitt on State Power

Reading: Mann and Wainwright, *Climate Leviathan*, Chapter 1

21 September: Typology of Climate Response Forms

Reading: Mann and Wainwright, *Climate Leviathan*, Chapter 2

23 September: The politics of ‘Adaptation’

Reading: Mann and Wainwright, *Climate Leviathan*, Chapter 3

28 September: How Climate Change Responses Affect our Understanding of ‘the Political’

Reading: Mann and Wainwright, *Climate Leviathan*, Chapter 4

30 September: ‘Green’ Capitalism and Imperialism

Reading: Mann and Wainwright, *Climate Leviathan*, Chapters 5 and 6

5 October: Environmentalist Ambivalence about State Power

Reading: Mann and Wainwright, *Climate Leviathan*, Chapter 7

7 October: On ‘Climate X’ as Alternative

Reading: Mann and Wainwright, *Climate Leviathan*, Chapter 8

12 October: Scholarly and Political Implications of Indigenous Perspectives on Climate

Reading: Kyle Powys Whyte, “Indigenous Climate Change Studies”

14 October: Two Rows and the Canoe(s) Metaphor

Reading: Kyle Powys Whyte, “Way Beyond the Lifeboat”

19 October: DAPL Settler Colonial Climate Injustice

Reading: Kyle Powys Whyte, “Dakota Access Pipeline, Environmental Injustice, and US Settler Colonialism”

21 October: Moralizing Narratives and Disavowed Parasitism

Reading: Kyle Powys Whyte, “On Resilient Parasitisms, or Why I’m Skeptical of Indigenous/settler Reconciliation”

26 October: Collective Continuance and Gendered Responsibilities

Reading: Kyle Whyte, “Indigenous Women, Climate Change Impacts, and Collective Action”

28 October: Gender Fluidity and Colonialism

Reading: Kyle Powys Whyte and Shelbi Nahwilet Meissner, “Theorizing Indigeneity, Gender, and Settler Colonialism,”

***** 2, 4 November: *** No Classes (Fall Reading Week) *****

9 November: chapter

Reading: Kyle Whyte, "Too Late for Indigenous Climate Justice?"

Suggested Reading: Deshkan Zibiing Anishinaabeg, "Wiindmaagewin Consultation Protocol"

11 November: chapter

Reading: *A Planet to Win*, "Introduction"

16 November: chapter

Reading: *A Planet to Win*, Chapter 1

18 November: chapter

Reading: *A Planet to Win*, Chapter 1

23 November: chapter

Reading: *A Planet to Win*, Chapter 2

25 November: chapter

Reading: *A Planet to Win*, Chapter 2

30 November: chapter

Reading: *A Planet to Win*, Chapter 3

2 December: chapter

Reading: *A Planet to Win*, Chapter 4

7 December: chapter

Reading: *A Planet to Win*, "Conclusion"



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2021 - 2022

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Pandemic Contingency

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, typically using a combination of synchronous instruction (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) and asynchronous material (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor. In the unlikely event that changes to the grading scheme are necessary, these changes will be clearly communicated as soon as possible.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf. The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or**

midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

(a) Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

(b) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf. Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>

Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>

Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>

Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca

Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Chaplaincy: gthorne@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.