

Anthropology 483
Winter Term 2013
Fridays 10:05-12:55
Leacock Building, Room 721

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ANTH 483: Climate Change and Culture

This seminar will explore what global warming has come to mean to us ideologically, philosophically, culturally, and emotionally. As Mike Hulme argues, climate change is currently more powerful as a mobilizing idea than a physical reality. Most citizens of the global north are yet to be physically harmed by climate change, yet it affects us nonetheless: we feel a pang of guilt when we fly, a sense of loss when watching an arctic nature documentary. Many find climate change threatening not to their physical security but to their ideological convictions: we fear a new religion of environmental guilt, an anti-consumerist Puritanism, a challenge to national sovereignty, or a vindication of scientific hegemony. Some of us find secret delight in global warming, regarding it as a rhetorical godsend – it functions as the ultimate proof of what we already believed about human hubris, Western greed, or failed capitalism. Still others hope climate change is not solved too quickly, as it attracts attention to previously overlooked causes: global social justice, the preservation of indigenous autonomy, the scaling back of human endeavor, deeper rootedness in our local communities, or (conversely) strengthened global solidarity.

Please note: The final class session is on TUESDAY (not Friday), April 16th, 10:05am-12:55pm.

Office hours

By appointment – please email me to set up a time.

Course requirements

-Close reading of all of the articles in the coursepack, and all of your classmates' term papers (to be completed *before* the corresponding class session)

-Attendance

Exception will be made only for medical/psychiatric reasons, family emergencies, and the like.

Please email me as far in advance as possible if you are unable to attend class. You will be required to make up your participation grade for that day by writing some comments on that day's readings.

-Active participation in class discussions

Please come to class each week with at least one comment or question about each reading assignment, and one comment or question about the topic as a whole

-Occasional presentation of a reading to the class

-Term paper (**due 11:59pm April 1st**)

Please email the paper to all of the students in the class and myself so that we can read it before your presentation

This is a research paper on any topic related to climate change and culture – please email me or set up an appointment to discuss the topic

3500-4500 words (approximately 14-17 double-spaced pages)

There is no minimum or maximum number of sources, but you should do enough research to write about the topic with many specific details and a minimum of redundancy

Any citation style is acceptable as long as it is clear and consistent

-Presentation of term paper to the class

Grading scheme

50% class participation

50% term paper

Course schedule

Week 1, Jan 11: Introduction; Why do we call climate change an ‘environmental’ issue?

Week 2, Jan 18: What would it mean for us if climate change ends nature?

McKibben, Bill. The End of Nature. Chapter entitled The End of Nature.

Allison

Hulme, M., 2010. Learning to Live with Recreated Climates. *Nature and Culture*, 5(2), pp.117-122.

Allison

Jasanoff, Sheila. 2010. A new climate for society. *Theory, Culture & Society* 27(2/3):233-253.

Tracey

Week 3, Jan 25: Who if anyone should be blamed for climate change?

Giddens, Anthony. 1999. Risk and Responsibility. *The Modern Law Review* 62(1):1-10.

Lucy

Rudiak-Gould, Peter. Climate change mitigation and self-blame in the Marshall Islands.

Yasmin

Hughes, David. The Vulnerability Defense.

McKenzie

Week 4, Feb 1: Why are we not concerned about climate change?

Johnson, Dominic, and Simon Levin. 2009. The tragedy of cognition: psychological biases and environmental inaction. *Current Science* 97(11):1593-1603.

Hannah C.

Norgaard, K.M., 2006. “We Don’t Really Want to Know”: Environmental Justice and Socially Organized Denial of Global Warming in Norway. *Organization & Environment*, 19(3), pp.347-370.

Hannah A-D

Stoll-Kleemann, S., O’Riordan, T. & Jaeger, C.C., 2001. The psychology of denial concerning climate mitigation measures: evidence from Swiss focus groups. *Global Environmental Change*, 11, pp.107-117.

Hannah A-D

Week 5, Feb 8: Is climate change skepticism legitimate?

Sarewitz, Daniel. 2004. How science makes environmental controversies worse. *Environmental Science & Policy* 7:385–403.

Odessa

McCright, Aaron M. 2011. Political orientation moderates Americans' beliefs and concern about climate change. *Climatic Change* 104:243–253.

Tesia

Julie Brugger. Why Americans Don't Believe in Climate Change.

Veronica

Week 6, Feb 15: How can climate change be made visible?

Rudiak-Gould, Peter forthcoming. 'We have seen it with our own eyes': Why we disagree about climate change visibility. *Weather, Climate & Society*.

NOTE: This reading is not in your coursepack. I will email it to you a week before the class session in which we will discuss it.

Matthew

Hamblyn, R., 2009. The whistleblower and the canary: rhetorical constructions of climate change. *Journal of Historical Geography*, 35, pp.223–236.

Carly

Orlove, Ben, E. Wiegandt, and B. H. Luckman. 2008. The place of glaciers in natural and cultural landscapes. In *Darkening peaks: glacial retreat, science and society*, edited by B. Orlove, E. Wiegandt, and B. H. Luckman. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Matthew

Farbotko, C., 2010. Wishful sinking: Disappearing islands, climate refugees and cosmopolitan experimentation. *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*, 51(1), pp.47-60.

Morganne

Week 7, Feb 22: What can indigenous people teach us about climate change?

Smith, Heather A. 2007. Disrupting the Global Discourse of Climate Change: The Case of Indigenous Voices. In *The Social Construction of Climate Change: Power, Knowledge, Norms, Discourses*, edited by Mary E Pettenger. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate Publishing Limited.

Maythe

Smith, William D. 2007. Presence of Mind as Working Climate Change Knowledge: A Totonac Cosmopolitics. In *The Social Construction of Climate Change: Power, Knowledge, Norms, Discourses*, edited by Mary E Pettenger. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate Publishing Limited.

Lila

Mortreux, Colette, and Jon Barnett. 2009. Climate change, migration and adaptation in Funafuti, Tuvalu. *Global Environmental Change* 19:105-112.

Charlotte

Week 8, March 1: How can climate change best be communicated?

Marx, S. et al. 2007. Communication and mental processes: Experiential and analytic processing of uncertain climate information. *Global Environmental Change* 17(1):47-58.

Robin

Sterman, J.D., 2011. Communicating climate change risks in a skeptical world. *Climatic Change* 108(4): 811-826.

Robin

Feinberg, Matthew, and Robb Willer. 2011. Apocalypse soon? Dire messages reduce belief in global warming by contradicting just-world beliefs. *Psychological Science* 22(1):34-38.

Lindsay

Patt, Anthony G., and Dagmar Schröter. 2007. Perceptions of Environmental Risks in Mozambique: Implications for the Success of Adaptation and Coping Strategies.

Lindsay

Week 9, Mar 8: NO CLASS (Reading week)

Week 10, Mar 15: Are there any acceptable solutions to climate change?

Wilk, R.. 2009. Consuming Ourselves to Death: The Anthropology of Consumer Culture and Climate Change. In *Anthropology & Climate Change: From Encounters to Actions*, edited by Susan A Crate and Mark Nuttall. Walnut Creek, California: Left Coast Press.

Melanie

Hepburn, C. and Simon C. 2011. Carbon trading: unethical, unjust and ineffective? *Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy, Working Paper No. 59*

Anna

Verweij, M. et al., 2006. Clumsy solutions for a complex world: the case of climate change. *Public Administration*, 84(4), pp.817-843.

Veronica

Week 11, Mar 22: NO CLASS (Instructor is out of the country)

Week 12, Mar 29:NO CLASS (Good Friday)

Can climate change be an opportunity?

(Although we will not have a class meeting, please read the following articles and email the instructor an approximately 2-page [single-spaced] paper describing your reaction to the articles and how they relate to the idea of making climate change an opportunity)

Hulme, M., 2010. Cosmopolitan Climates: Hybridity, Foresight and Meaning. *Theory, Culture & Society* 27(2-3): 267-276

Nuttall, M., 2008. Climate Change and the Warming Politics of Autonomy in Greenland. *Indigenous Affairs*, 1-2, pp.44-51.

NOTE: This reading is not in the coursepack – it replaces the other Nuttall reading that *is* in the coursepack. The article you should read is available at

www.iwgia.org/iwgia_files_publications_files/IA_1-2_08_Arctic.pdf

Miller, C.A. 2004. Climate science and the making of a global political order. Pp. 46-66 in *States of Knowledge: The Co-production of Science and the Social Order*, edited by Sheila Jasanoff. London: Routledge.

April 1st, 11:59pm – TERM PAPER DUE - please email the paper to myself and to all of the students in the class

Week 13, April 5: Student term paper presentations and discussion

**Robin
Hannah A-D
Hannah C
Maythe
Odessa
Allison**

Week 14, April 12: Student term paper presentations and discussion

**Matthew
Charlotte
Morganne
Carly
Yasmin
Anna
Tesia**

Week 15, April 16 (TUESDAY): Student term paper presentations and discussion

**Veronica
Tracey
McKenzie
Lucy
Lindsay
Melanie**

Lila