

**GLOBAL CLIMATE POLITICS**

POL 3208G  
4255 Social Sciences Centre  
Tuesdays 9:30-11:20 a.m.

Prof. Radoslav Dimitrov  
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Thur, Friday 10 - 12 a.m.  
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**Course description** In December 2015, international negotiations produced the Paris Agreement on climate change. This course provides an intimate perspective on UN negotiations and the global politics of climate change. Topics include: the science of the problem, history of international discussions, key countries and their policy preferences, current global political dynamics, and recent outcomes of climate talks. The course also explores global climate governance and offers a glimpse of climate policies around the world. The instructor serves on the European Union delegation since 2009 and has participated in UN diplomacy since 1999. The course offers an opportunity to gain knowledge that is not readily available elsewhere.

**Course objectives and outcomes**

The overarching objectives are to 1) accumulate factual knowledge about the subject, 2) obtain analytical insight about factors affecting global climate politics, and 3) develop practical skills at negotiations. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate thorough knowledge of the climate problem and global climate politics
2. Understand and debate political, economic and social factors that shape climate politics;
3. Show in-depth knowledge of diplomatic protocol, the treaty-making process and the conduct of international negotiations
4. Apply knowledge in multilateral negotiations on international policy, through extensive and realistic simulations; and
5. Engage in critical reading and assess academic claims and methods of inquiry.

Students who pass the course with 90 or above, will also be prepared to:

7. Participate on Canadian delegations to UN conferences, and
8. Engage professionally in negotiations

**Required readings**

Book: Gunnar Sjöstedt and Ariel Macaspac Penetrante, *Climate Change Negotiations* (Routledge 2013) is available at the UWO bookstore. Readings also include journal articles and book chapters posted in electronic format on Sakai (<http://owl.uwo.ca>). Students need to complete the readings for each class period prior to class, and develop a grasp of the material sufficient to raise questions and engage in substantive class discussions.

**Grade distribution**

Exam	40%
Presentation	20%
Simulation	30%
Participation	10%

## ASSIGNMENTS

### Quiz

The quiz will consist of short-answer questions. Each question will require specific factual information and can be answered well in less than one written page.

### Simulation

We will conduct a classroom simulation of international negotiations. Students will role-play diplomats representing state governments and will negotiate an international agreement on climate change. We will follow UN diplomatic protocol of conduct and standard operating procedures. The simulation will be realistic and mimic closely the manner in which actual UN conferences are organized. The purpose is to learn experientially about diplomacy and encounter first-hand the obstacles to international cooperation. Detailed instructions will be posted on OWL Sakai in the Simulation folder.

### Presentation

Presentations on PowerPoint will be made in class and prepared for posting on the class OWL website. Each presentation will be prepared by two students and should last 15 minutes. A sign-up sheet containing the complete list of topics will be provided in class. Grading criteria includes: quality and detail of factual information; comprehensive treatment of the topic; quality of sources used; clarity of verbal presentation; and quality of visual materials. Attention: Please document sources of information and list them on the last slides.

## CONSULTATIONS

Office hours provide students with a good opportunity to discuss issues and deepen understanding of course material. I encourage you to talk to me throughout the year about course content and expectations. If you have special needs, medical or family emergencies, please let me know and we will make appropriate arrangements.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University of Western Ontario seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you need accommodations in this class, please give prior notice to the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

## COURSE CALENDAR

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JANUARY 5	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
	Scope and content of course, significance of topic and course expectations. What will I learn, why does it matter, and how difficult will it be?
	Chapter 1 The perspective of a politician: How decisions are made
JANUARY 12	<b>THE SCIENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE</b>
Presentations:	Chapter 3: Costs and uncertainties in climate change negotiations: A scientist's perspective.
1) Science and	
2) Adaptation	1. IPCC. 2014. Fifth Assessment, Summary for Policymakers

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JANUARY 19	<b>POLICY ISSUES AND DEBATES IN CLIMATE POLITICS</b>
Presentations:	2. Dimitrov, Radoslav S. 2010. Inside UN Climate Change Negotiations: The Copenhagen Conference. <i>Review of Policy Research</i> , 27 (6): <u>Read only pages 795-805.</u>
1) Forestry and	
2) Agriculture	Chapter 13 on the North-South divide
	3. Scott Moore, “Delhi Dilemma: <b>India</b> is now the biggest barrier to a global climate treaty,” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (November 2014).
	<u>Recommended additional readings:</u>
	Stephanie Bailer and Florian Weiler, “A Political Economy of Positions in Climate Change Negotiations,” <i>Review of International Organizations</i> (2014).
	Vihma, Antto, Yacob Mulugetta, and Sylvia Karlsson-Vinkhuyzen. “Negotiating solidarity? The G77 through the prism of climate change negotiations.” <i>Global Change, Peace &amp; Security</i> 23 (2011): 315-34.

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JANUARY 26	<b>HISTORY OF CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS</b>
Presentations:	The Kyoto Protocol – full text
1) The EU	Chapter 2, 4 and 5
2) Brazil	4. Justice and fairness in global climate policy: Edward Page, “Normative theory,” in <i>Research Handbook on Climate Governance</i> (2015)

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FEBRUARY 2	<b>HISTORY (CONTINUED)</b>
Presentations:	Chapters 6, 7 and 8 on the EU-US divide, Russia and leadership
1) China and	2. Dimitrov, Radoslav S. 2010. Inside UN Climate Change Negotiations: The Copenhagen Conference. <i>Review of Policy Research</i> , 27 (6): <u>Read only pages 806-819.</u>
2) The US	
	<u>Recommended additional readings:</u>
	Christoff, Peter. “Cold climate in Copenhagen: China and the United States at COP15.” <i>Environmental Politics</i> 19 (2010): 637-56.
	Hallding, Karl, Marie Jürisoo, Marcus Carson, and Aaron Atteridge. “Rising powers: the evolving role of BASIC countries.” <i>Climate Policy</i> 13 (2013): 608-31

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FEBRUARY 9	<b>DOMESTIC POLICY DEVELOPMENTS</b>
	5. Vihma, Antto. “India and the Global Climate Governance: Between

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Presentations:	Principles and Pragmatism.” <i>The Journal of Environment &amp; Development</i> 20 (2011): 69-94.
1) Sectoral approaches and	6. Bjorn Conrad, “China in Copenhagen: Reconciling the “Beijing Climate Revolution” and the “Copenhagen China Obstinacy,” <i>The China Quarterly</i> 210 (June 2012), pp. 435-455.
2) Carbon markets	7. Matthew Paterson. 2013. Post-hegemonic climate politics? <i>The British Journal of Politics and International Relations</i> vol. 11 (2009), 140-158.

*FEBRUARY 16 READING WEEK: NO CLASS*

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FEBRUARY 23	<b>SIMULATION</b>
	8. Lavanya Rajamani, “The Durban Platform for Enhanced Action and the Future of the Climate Change Regime,” <i>International and Comparative Law Quarterly</i> 61(2): 501-518
	9. UNFCCC Secretariat. <i>Caring for Climate: A Guide to the Climate Change Convention and the Kyoto Protocol</i>

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MARCH 1	<b>SIMULATION</b>
	Chapter 16 on cost-benefit analysis
	Chapter 11 on sectoral approaches and the airline industry

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Date to be announced	<b>LONG NEGOTIATION SESSION</b>
	Chapter 17: Proposal for insurance for facilitation of adaptation
	Book chapter: Conclusion: Strategic facilitation of climate talks

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MARCH 8	<b>THE PARIS CONFERENCE OF 2015</b>
Presentation:	Recent readings to be assigned
Renewable energy	Chapter 9 on NGO participation
	10. Kilian, Bertil and Ole Elgström. 2010. Still a Green Leader? The European Union’s Role in International Climate Negotiations. <i>Cooperation and Conflict</i> 45(3): 255-273.

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MARCH 15	<b>THE PARIS CONFERENCE OF 2015</b>
Presentation:	The Paris Agreement – full text
Energy efficiency	Chapter 14 on legal options

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11. Radoslav S. Dimitrov, "The politics of persuasion," chapter in *Handbook of Global Environmental Politics* edited by Peter Dauvergne (Edward Elgar 2012), pp. 72-86.

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MARCH 22

**CONCLUSION: GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE**

Presentation:

12. Røgeberg, Ole, Steinar Andresen, and Bjart Holtsmark. 2010. "International Climate Treaties: The Case for Pessimism." *Climate Law*, 1(1): 177-197.

Canada and  
climate change

Chapter 15 on verification and trust

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## APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES

### DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

#### **Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility**

"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."

#### **Essay course requirements**

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

#### **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."

**Security and Confidentiality of Student Work** (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar*

(<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>)

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

#### **Duplication of work**

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

## **Grade adjustments**

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

## **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 Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

## **Submission of Course Requirements**

**ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.**

**THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.**

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

**Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.**

## **Plagiarism**

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**Plagiarism Checking:** "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>

**Multiple-choice tests/exams:** "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may

be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

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### **PLAGIARISM\***

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

**A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.**

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

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Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

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## **Attendance Regulations for Examinations**

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) 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.

## **Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.**

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## **University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct**

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Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

\*Reprinted by permission of the Department of History

Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

**Accessibility at Western:** Please contact [poliscie@uwo.ca](mailto:poliscie@uwo.ca) if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Registrar's office can be accessed for Student Support Services at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at:  
<http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western  
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.