

## **Spring 2010: Geography H410: Global Climate & Environmental Change (class #23768)**

### **When and Where:**

Monday and Wednesday: Derby Hall, Room 140 (9:00 am to 10:18 am)

Tuesday: Derby Hall Room 140 (10:30 am to 12:18 pm)

### **Instructor: Dr. Ellen Mosley-Thompson (thompson.4@osu.edu)**

Office: Derby Hall 1140; Telephone: 292-2580 or -6662

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:45 am to 12:00 pm or by appointment

### **Teaching Assistant: Ms. Sara Nicholson (email: nicholson.160@osu.edu)**

Office: 1070 Derby Hall; Telephone 614-292-2705

Office hours: Monday 12:30 to 1:30; Tuesday: 9 am to 10:00 am, or by appointment

**Course Objectives:** This course is taught in a lecture / seminar format and is designed to provide a more thorough understanding of the scientific basis of both natural and anthropogenic (human produced) climate and environmental changes. You will explore the key issues surrounding 20<sup>th</sup> century climate change (popularly called global warming) and the role of human activities in shaping the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the environment that sustains life on Earth. Through readings, lectures, discussions, student presentations, class debates and films you will gain insight to how these anticipated changes are likely to affect your future and explore actions by which you may contribute to solutions. You will gain experience using peer-reviewed literature to research a topic and then summarize your findings both orally and in writing. A key objective is to provide you with the knowledge base and skills to critically evaluate information you read or hear concerning climate change and related environmental issues.

**Prerequisites:** This course has no prerequisites except that you must be officially admitted to the University Honors Program.

**GEC Requirements:** This course meets B.A. and B.S. Degree GEC requirements for Natural Science (Physical Science) and Social Sciences (Human, Natural, and Economic Resources)

**Textbooks (both are required: the Dessler & Parson book will be “loaned” to you for the quarter but you will have to purchase Plan B 4.0 – check the bookstore or Amazon).**

- 1) Brown, Lester R., *Plan B 4.0 Mobilizing to Save Civilization*. W. W. Norton & Company, NY, pp. 368, 2009.
- 2) Dessler, A. E. and E. A. Parson, *The Science and Politics of Global Climate Change: A Guide to the Debate*. Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge, pp. 188, 2006.

Selected journal articles and book chapters will be placed on electronic reserve for the class. Additional books will be placed on reserve in the Geology Library in Orton Hall unless specified otherwise. Additional materials and exercises will be accessible for copying to your memory stick or CD. All class materials will be posted on Carmen. Throughout the quarter additional reading and reference materials may be required. You will be alerted in class about updates that have been added to Carmen. At the beginning of the quarter the schedule of activities (lectures, guest speakers, group discussions, field trips, debates, presentations, papers, and films) will be posted on the daily class schedule posted on Carmen. This will be updated as class progresses. Lectures will be posted on Carmen. Except for the first week of the class, readings are assigned in the week prior to the presentation of the material. Note that the daily class schedule will be

adjusted as the quarter progresses and you will be alerted to these changes. Remember that this is a lecture/ seminar style course and thus you need to remain flexible so that we may capitalize on climate- and/or environment-related events and special speakers on campus.

**Grading:**

**Group presentations: 20% (two presentations – 10% each)**

**Individual research paper: 12%**

**Exercises: 25% (Exercise 1 – 5%; Exercise 2 – 10%; Exercise 3 – 5%; Exercise 4 – 5%)**

**Debates: 20% (two debates – 10% each)**

**Final examination: 15%**

**Participation (5%) and Attendance (3%): 8%** This means attending each class and field trips, turning in all work on time, participating in the discussions, asking questions, being attentive and engaged in the class.

**A Late assignment** will lose 10% credit for each 24 hour period it is late and after 3 days (72 hours) no credit will be given unless a prior arrangement has been made with Dr. EMT.

**Absences:** You are allowed one un-excused absence. An excused absence requires written documentation (doctor's excuse) or prior permission from Dr. EMT to be absent. I consider your requests on a case by case basis. There may be a few quizzes and they will be announced in advance.

**Additional Class Materials:** Additional materials will be placed on reserve throughout the quarter. The list of these will be maintained on Carmen under Reserve Materials. All materials (unless otherwise indicated) are on closed reserve in the Geology Library in Orton Hall [the building with the bell tower on the south side the Oval]. All materials will be filed under Geography H410 unless otherwise indicated. Additional class materials may be made available throughout the quarter.

**An Important Note about Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct:** Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. Please see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)). University rules provide severe penalties for academic misconduct, ranging from course failure to dismissal from the university. University rules are found in the handbook used in all survey courses: "University Survey - A Guidebook and Readings for New Students." Any questions about this policy, or your grade, should be brought directly to the attention of Dr. EMT.

**Students with Disabilities and Special Needs:** Any student needing special accommodation on the basis of any disability must advise the instructor at the beginning of class. All necessary accommodations will be made upon presentation of relevant certification, presented in a timely manner. Students are also responsible for making contact with the Office for Disability Services at 292-3307, 150 Pomerene Hall, prior to or at the beginning of the quarter.

**Welcome to this Honors Seminar:**

I look forward to working with you as a group and individually as you learn more about your environment and Earth's climate system - past, present and future.