

CLIMATE CHANGE, CONFLICT, AND ECONOMIC ADAPTATION: PERSPECTIVES ON MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Fall 2024

Instructor:	Elisa D'Amico	Dates:	16.09.2024 - 20.12.2024
Email:	elisa.damico@unibas.ch	Place:	Asynchronous-Hybrid

Course Number: Recherche 74026-01 – Blockseminar, 3 credits

Course Pages:

1. <https://vorlesungsverzeichnis.unibas.ch/de/recherche?id=288452>
2. <https://adam.unibas.ch/>

Universal Zoom Link: <https://luc.zoom.us/j/81167142582>

Office Hours: Email for appointment

Course Description: The course will be asynchronous and consist of readings, discussion, a project, and a paper with our in-person sessions scheduled for November 15-16. The primary focus of the course will be on the project, which can take one of two paths: an academic-style analysis or a policy proposal.

Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the complex interactions between climate change, conflict, migration, and economic adaptation, particularly in vulnerable regions. They will analyze the effectiveness of existing climate policies, develop critical assessment skills, and propose tailored solutions for vulnerable contexts. Additionally, students will enhance their research, analytical, and communication skills through academic-style analysis or policy proposal projects, contributing meaningfully to the discourse on climate policy and sustainable development.

Required Text: There is no required material for this course that you need to purchase. All weekly readings will be publicly available. For more details on the readings, please refer to the weekly schedule.

Course Outline:

- Week 1: Virtual introductory meeting
- Weeks 2-6: Readings & virtual discussion
- Weeks 7-8: Work on project & individual meetings with professor
- Week 9: Work on project & in-person presentations
- Weeks 10-12: Work on paper & optional readings
- Week 13: Paper due

Important Dates:

Introductory Meeting SEP 19, 2024
Virtual, 12:00-13:00
Project Topic Due OCT 4, 2024
Individual Meetings OCT 28 - NOV 8, 2024
Virtual
Project Presentations NOV 15-16, 2024
Riehenstrasse 154, Hörsaal 00.015, 9:00-1700
Papers and Discussions Due DEC 13, 2024

Modules Covered:

- Modul: Fields: Environment and Development (Master Studiengang: African Studies)
- Modul: Fields: Governance and Politics (Master Studiengang: African Studies)
- Modul: Gesellschaft in Osteuropa (Bachelor Studiengang: Osteuropa-Studien)
- Modul: Gesellschaft in Osteuropa (Bachelor Studienfach: Osteuropäische Kulturen)
- Modul: Resources and Sustainability (Master Studiengang: Changing Societies: Migration – Conflicts – Resources)
- Modul: Transfer: Europa interdisziplinär (Master Studiengang: Europäische Geschichte in globaler Perspektive)
- Vertiefungsmodul Global Europe: Arbeit, Migration und Gesellschaft (Masterstudium: European Global Studies)
- Vertiefungsmodul Global Europe: Friedens- und Konfliktforschung (Masterstudium: European Global Studies)
- Vertiefungsmodul Global Europe: Staatlichkeit, Entwicklung und Globalisierung (Masterstudium: European Global Studies)
- Vertiefungsmodul Global Europe: Umwelt und Nachhaltigkeit (Masterstudium: European Global Studies)

Material Disclaimer: In the readings for this course, there will be several quantitative journal articles. If you are unfamiliar with how to approach such readings, I encourage you to review [this blog on "How to Read a \(Quantitative\) Journal Article."](#) I assure you that navigating these articles is more manageable than it might initially seem.

Grading Policy: The grading scale ranges from 6.0 to 1.0, with a minimum grade of 4.0 required to pass.

- Reading and discussion (25%)
- Projects and presentation (40%)
- Paper (35%)

Grade Breakdown**Readings and Discussion (25%)**

For this component of the course, you are required to engage with the assigned readings and participate in three online discussion threads on ADAM throughout the semester. While you are encouraged to respond to each discussion thread during the week of the relevant readings, all responses are due by December 13, 2024.

Discussion threads are provided for each week's readings, and you are expected to submit a critical response of at least 400 words for each thread. Additionally, you may earn credit by responding to one of your peers' discussion posts.

Since this portion of the grade is flexible, it is your responsibility to manage your time effectively and ensure that you complete this requirement. Please refer to the weekly schedule for readings and plan your contributions accordingly.

Projects and Presentations (40%)

The projects and presentations will make up the majority of your grade in this course. You have the choice between two project types: 1) Academic/Research or 2) Policy. If you're aiming for a career in research, a PhD, or a technical field, I highly recommend the Academic/Research option. Alternatively, if you're interested in policy or humanities, the Policy option may be more suitable. Choose the route that best aligns with your career goals and interests.

There are three key components to this grade. First, you must submit your chosen project route (1 or 2) and topic for approval by October 4, 2024. This submission should be made through the "Project Route & Topic Approval" survey in our ADAM course and will account for **5%** of your grade. Second, you are required to schedule a one-on-one meeting with me to discuss your project between October 28, 2024 and November 8, 2024. Sign-ups for this meeting will be available in the "Project Overview" section of ADAM. This meeting will be evaluated based on both your attendance and the preparedness of your discussion, contributing 10% to your grade.

The final component involves your actual project and its presentation, which will account for **25%** of your grade. Presentations will take place in person from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on November 15-16, 2024. The specifics of the presentation format and requirements will be detailed in the "Project Overview" section of ADAM. Please ensure you meet all deadlines and prepare thoroughly to excel in this significant part of the course.

In-Person Presentation and Attendance:

The order of presentations will be randomized and posted on October 15, 2024. If your allocated slot conflicts with an ongoing obligation, e.g. work, please reach out to me to arrange an alternative time. I strongly recommend those of you without commitments to attend both days.

If you are unable to attend, I will post each presentation's discussion questions on a thread on ADAM, and you will be required to respond to a total of 7 questions. You will have until November 20, 2024. Further requirements for this thread will be provided later.

Final Paper (35%)

The final paper is a crucial component of your grade and is due on December 13, 2024. This paper will consist of several key elements: incorporating weekly readings (required or optional), addressing feedback received during your presentation, and content that aligns with your chosen project type.

If you selected the Academic/Research route, your paper must be a minimum of 4 pages. For those who chose the Policy route, the paper must be at least 6 pages. Again, please ensure that your paper integrates insights from the weekly readings and demonstrates how you have incorporated feedback from your presentation into your final work. For detailed guidelines on the paper assignment, including expectations and formatting requirements, please refer to the "Project Overview" section of ADAM. This paper is designed to synthesize your learning and showcase the depth of your analysis, so be sure to address all required components thoroughly.

Weekly Schedule

All readings are hyperlinked to the online source. If inaccessible, please contact me.

Week 1: September 16 - September 20

Virtual Introduction Meeting

September 19, 2024 from 12:00 - 13:00

Week 2: September 23 - September 27

Theme: Climate Change and Conflict

Required Readings

[Hendrix, C. S., & Glaser, S. M. \(2011\)](#). Civil conflict and world fisheries, 1952–2004.

[Burke et al. \(2015\)](#). Climate and conflict.

Optional Readings

[Hendrix, C. S., & Salehyan, I. \(2012\)](#). Climate change, rainfall, and social conflict in Africa.

[Segerberg, A., & Bennett, W. L. \(2011\)](#). Social media and the organization of collective action: Using Twitter to explore the ecologies of two climate change protests.

Week 3: September 30 - October 4**Project Topics Due**

Due on October 4, 2024

Theme: Climate Change and Migration

Required Readings

[Black et al. \(2011\)](#). Migration as Adaptation.

[IOM \(2022\)](#). Executive Summary: Climate Change and Future Human Mobility.

Optional Readings

[Adams, H. \(2016\)](#). Why populations persist: mobility, place attachment, and climate change.

[Mallick, B., & Schanze, J. \(2020\)](#). Trapped or voluntary? Non-migration despite climate risks.

Week 4: October 7 - October 11

Theme: Climate Policy, Legal Frameworks, and Adaptation Strategies

Required Readings

[Eskander, S. M., & Fankhauser, S. \(2020\)](#). Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from national climate legislation.

[Biesbroek et al. \(2010\)](#). Europe adapts to climate change: comparing national adaptation strategies.

[European Commission \(2021\)](#). EU Adaptation Strategy

Optional Readings

[Scott, D., & Becken, S. \(2010\)](#). Adapting to climate change and climate policy: Progress, problems and potentials.

[Kolstad, C. D., & Toman, M. \(2005\)](#). The economics of climate policy.

Week 5: October 14 - October 18

Theme: Economic Vulnerability and Climate Resilience

Required Readings

[Watkiss, P. \(2015\)](#). A review of the economics of adaptation and climate-resilient development.

[Friend, R., & Moench, M. \(2013\)](#). What is the purpose of urban climate resilience? Implications for addressing poverty and vulnerability.

Optional Readings

[Noy, I., & Yonson, R. \(2018\)](#). Economic vulnerability and resilience to natural hazards: A survey of concepts and measurements.

[Read, R. \(2010\)](#). Trade, economic vulnerability, resilience and the

implications of climate change in small island and littoral developing economies.

Week 6: October 21 - October 25

Theme: Economic Impacts of Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals

Required Readings

[UN Secretary General \(2023\)](#). SDG Implementation Progress Report.

[Liu et al. \(2020\)](#). The importance of socioeconomic conditions in mitigating climate change impacts and achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Optional Readings

[Aldieri, L., & Vinci, C. P. \(2018\)](#). Green economy and sustainable development: The economic impact of innovation on employment.

[Koubi, V. \(2019\)](#). Sustainable development impacts of climate change and natural disaster.

Week 7: October 28 - November 1

Work on Project

Individual Meetings

Virtual meetings from October 28 - November 8, 2024

Week 8: November 4 - November 8

Work on Project

Individual Meetings

Virtual meetings from October 28 - November 8, 2024

Week 9: November 11 - November 16

Work on Project

PRESENTATIONS

Riechenstrasse 154, Hörsaal 00.015, 9:00-17:00 on November 15-16, 2024

Week 10: November 18 - November 22

Work on Paper

Optional Readings (*Migration & Conflict*)

[Gleditsch, N. P. \(2012\)](#). Whither the weather? Climate change and conflict.

[Schewel, K. \(2020\)](#). Understanding immobility: Moving beyond the mobility bias in migration studies.

Week 11: November 25 - November 29

Work on Paper

Optional Readings (*Adaptation & Policy*)

[Chu, E. et al. \(2016\)](#). Inclusive approaches to urban climate adaptation planning and implementation in the Global South.

[Raj, S. et al. \(2022\)](#). Food security and climate change: differences in impacts and adaptation strategies for rural communities in the global south and north.

Week 12: December 2 - December 6

Work on Paper

Optional Readings (*Development*)

[Giddings et al. \(2002\)](#). Environment, economy and society: fitting them together into sustainable development.

[Agrawala et al. \(2020\)](#). Improving resource efficiency and the circularity of economies for a greener world.

Week 13: December 9 - December 13

Paper and Discussions DUE

Due on December 13, 2024