

# Contemporary Political Issues: Climate Change

POLI 102

SUMMER I 2021

👤 Dr. Matthew Nowlin, PhD

🔗 [matthewcnowlin.com](http://matthewcnowlin.com)

✉ [nowlinmc@cofc.edu](mailto:nowlinmc@cofc.edu)

🗣 Office hours: [By appointment](#) (on Zoom)

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## Course Description

From the CofC catalog:

An introductory course for majors and non-majors that emphasizes the analysis of current domestic and international issues. Issues covered will vary from semester to semester.

For this course we will be examining the issue of **climate change**. Specifically, we will use the issue of climate change to examine the process of addressing complex problems in the United States (and globally to a lesser extent), explore how science impacts policymaking, and examine why the United States has been unable, at the federal level, to develop policy approaches to address climate change.

## Course Goals and Learning Objectives

### Political Science Learning Outcomes

After taking this course:

- Students will become familiar with a number of contemporary political issues and better understand their make-up and importance
- Students will understand how different political issues are assessed by different philosophical and ideological traditions
- Students will be able to effectively write and develop arguments
- Students will be able to better comprehend other's views and formulate, defend their own positions

### General Social Science Education Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students should be able to apply social science concepts, models or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions or social institutions. This will be assessed in the final exam.

## Delivery Format

This is an asynchronous online course, and so it is largely self-paced. Students must have access to a **computer** with **high-speed internet access** throughout the course. In addition, students must have access to **OAKS** and *should check OAKS frequently (AT LEAST every other day) to be sure not to fall behind*. Finally, students must have access to their **CofC email**. **Computer failure/unavailability does not constitute an excuse for not completing assignments by the due date.**

It is essential that students stay on top of the course assignments. I will post due dates, but it is your responsibility to make sure you don't get behind, especially in a class this short. Do not make the mistake of thinking this is an easy class because we're meeting online, or an easy class because it's meeting over the summer. The material is quite difficult, and will take a lot of effort on your part to master. *A Summer I class that meets face-to-face normally entails three hours of classroom time per weekday, plus reading and homework each night. The workload for this class will be the same, except our classroom will be OAKS.*

## Technical Issues

If you have technical problems, please contact the Student Computing Support Desk at 843.953.8000 or email [studentcomputingsupport@cofc.edu](mailto:studentcomputingsupport@cofc.edu).

## Contacting the Professor

If you have questions about course related material, and/or course procedures please *post your question to the Course Questions discussion board on OAKS*, so that other students can benefit from your questions and the answer. I will respond to discussion board questions within 24 hours, *if not sooner*. If you are having problems with *course material*, please feel free to email me at [nowlinmc@cofc.edu](mailto:nowlinmc@cofc.edu).

## Email Policy

Email is the best way to contact me and I am happy to answer questions and/or address concerns over email. Please note the following:

1. Please allow 24 hours for a response from me before sending a second email.
2. Assignments must be turned in through the corresponding Assignment folder on OAKS and will not be accepted by email under any circumstances, including "issues with OAKS."
3. If you are having a technical issue with OAKS, I will not be able to help you, so please contact the [Student Computing Support Desk](#).

## Required Materials

- Access to [OAKS](#). We will make extensive use of OAKS in this course and several of its tools including Discussion Boards, Quizzes, and Assignments. Tutorials for each of these tools can be found [here](#).

- *Readings:*
  - *Book:* Dessler, Andrew Emory, and Edward Parson. 2020. *The Science and Politics of Global Climate Change: A Guide to the Debate*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
  - Additional readings will be available on [OAKS](#).

## Navigating This Course

Course material will be organized into 4 content modules that you will be able to access on OAKS beginning each Tuesday starting on Tuesday, June 8th. Each module will consist of:

- Course lectures and/or lecture notes
- Video
- Discussion boards
- Module quiz

Each module will be made available at 7:00am on each Tuesday, and assignments within each module are due by *11:59pm EST on each Monday*.

## Assignments and Due Dates

Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance on 4 module quizzes, 8 discussion board posts, 4 current events, a mid-term exam, an En-Roads assignment, and a final exam. Detailed instructions for each assignment will be available on OAKS.

Assignment	Possible Points	% of Grade
Module quizzes	100 (total)	20%
Discussion boards	50 (total)	10%
Current Events	100 (total)	20%
Mid-term exam	100	20%
En-ROADS assignment	50	10%
Final exam	100	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Module Quizzes

Each of the 4 modules will have a 5 question quiz over the **readings** and **lectures** for that module. You can use course materials for the quiz, but you must be take each quiz by yourself. *Once you begin the quiz you will 5 minutes to complete it.* Each quiz is worth up to *25 points*. *Module quizzes are due by 11:59pm EST on each Monday.*

## Discussion Boards

Within each module there will be a discussion board that will involve a discussion question from the video(s). For each discussion board you must a) provide an *answer* to the discussion question and b) *comment* on one other students answer. Each time you post, it should be about a paragraph. Note that you will not be able to comment on another student's post until you provide your answer to the question. Each post is worth up *6.25 points*. *Discussions will end at 11:59pm EST on each Monday.*

*You should not make any statement to or about anyone in an email or discussion board that you would not make in person. Be respectful of your classmates. In this course we are addressing an issue that is politically controversial. All discussions will be respectful to differing views. However, this course will be about learning to approach policy issues as scholars and analysts, not as partisans for one particular point of view.*

## Current Events

Each week you will and summarize a current news story related to climate change. You **must** find a story from the [New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#), or the [Post and Courier](#). Once you find a story, you will post a one paragraph summary of the story, a one paragraph discussion relating the story to a concept within the module, and a link to the story on the Current Events discussion board. *Each current event post is worth 25 points.*

## Mid-term exam

The mid-term exam will be available on OAKS starting Monday June 21st at 7:00am and *must be completed by 11:59pm EST on June 21st*. The exam will be posted and taken in OAKS. Exam questions will consist of four short essay questions covering material from module's 1 and 2 including lectures, readings, videos, and/or course discussion from the discussion boards within each module. *You are allowed to use course material for the exam, however, you must take the exam on your own.*

## En-ROADS assignment

[En-ROADS](#) is a web-based tool that allows you to experiment with different ways to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. For this assignment you will need to develop and report on a strategy that successfully keeps estimated warming to the Paris Agreement goal of 2 degrees Celsius. Further instructions will be provided on [OAKS](#). *The En-ROADS assignment is worth up to 50 points and is due on Tuesday July 6th by 11:59 PM.*

## Final exam

The final exam will be available on OAKS starting Wednesday July 7th at 7:00am and *must be completed by 11:59pm EST on July 7th*. The exam will be posted and taken in OAKS. Exam questions will consist of four short essay questions covering material from module's 3 and 4 including lectures, readings, videos, and/or course discussion from the discussion boards within each module. *You are allowed to use course material for the exam, however, you must take the exam on your own.* The final is **not** comprehensive and will only cover material from module's 3 and 4.

## Grades

There are **500** possible points for this course. Grades will be allocated based on your earned points and calculated as a percentage of **500**. A: 94 to 100%; A-: 90 to 93%; B+: 87 to 89%; B: 83 to 86%; B-: 80 to 82%; C+: 77 to 79%; C: 73 to 76%; C-: 70 to 72%; D+: 67 to 69%; D: 63 to 67%; D-: 60 to 62%; F: 59% and below.

## Course Content

The following modules will be on OAKS and made available on the dates indicated. Course content and schedule is subject to change. Changes will be announced through email.

### Module 1: The Science of Climate Change

**Available 7:00 AM EST on June 8th** The first module provides a brief overview of climate science and how scientists know that climate change is happening as a result of human activity.

See the Module 1 guide on [OAKS](#) for a complete list of readings and assignments

### Module 2: Values, Science, and the Political Controversy of Climate Change

**Available 7:00am EST on June 15th** The second module considers the role of science in policymaking as well as the role of differing values and beliefs across stakeholders in the development of policies to address climate change. Specifically, this module will examine the question, *given the strong scientific consensus about climate change, why don't we agree and why don't we act?*

See the Module 2 guide on [OAKS](#) for a complete list of readings and assignments

- **Mid-Term Exam available on June 21 from 7:00am to 11:59pm**

### Module 3: Climate Policy

**Available 7:00am EST on June 22nd** The third module examines policy approaches to address climate change at the global, national (United States), and sub-national level.

See the Module 3 guide on [OAKS](#) for a complete list of readings and assignments

### Module 4: Climate Politics and the Road Ahead

**Available 7:00am EST on June 29th** The fourth module explores the current state of climate change politics and the future *might* hold for the development of climate policies.

See the Module 4 guide on [OAKS](#) for a complete list of readings and assignments

- **En-ROADS assignment due on July 6th by 11:59 PM**
- **Final Exam available on July 7th from 7:00am to 11:59pm**

## **Important Information**

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions are related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This status indicator will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration – working together without permission – is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others' exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.

Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the [Student Handbook](#)

### **Students with Disabilities**

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the [Center for Disability Services](#) located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me at least one week before any accommodation is needed.

### **Inclement Weather, Pandemic or Substantial Interruption of Instruction**

If in-person classes are suspended, faculty will announce to their students a detailed plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning. All students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools.

## **Mental and Physical Wellbeing**

At the college, we take every students' mental and physical wellbeing seriously. If you find yourself experiencing physical illnesses, please reach out to student health services (843.953.5520). And if you find yourself experiencing any mental health challenges (for example, anxiety, depression, stressful life events, sleep deprivation, and/or loneliness/homesickness) please consider contacting either the Counseling Center (professional counselors at [or 843.953.5640](#) 3rd Robert Scott Small Building) or the Students 4 Support (certified volunteers through texting "4support" to 839863, visit [, or meet with them in person 3rd Floor Stern Center](#)). These services are there for you to help you cope with difficulties you may be experiencing and to maintain optimal physical and mental health.

## **Food and Housing Resources**

Many CofC students report experiencing food and housing insecurity. If you are facing challenges in securing food (such as not being able to afford groceries or get sufficient food to eat every day) and housing (such as lacking a safe and stable place to live), please contact the Dean of Students for support (). Also, you can go to [to learn about food and housing assistance that is available to you](#). In addition, there are several resources on and off campus to help. You can visit the Cougar Pantry in the Stern Center (2nd floor), a student-run food pantry that provides dry-goods and hygiene products at no charge to any student in need. Please also consider reaching out to Professor ABC if you are comfortable in doing so.

## **Center for Student Learning**

I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning's (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL [or call \(843\) 953-5635](#).

I encourage you to take advantage of the Writing Lab in the Center for Student Learning (Addlestone Library, first floor). Trained writing consultants can help with writing for all courses; they offer one-to-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, please call 843.953.5635 or visit [.](#)

## **Religious Accommodation for Students**

It is the policy of the College to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Please see me immediately if you will need to miss class any time during this semester.