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PSCI 428.R01: Sustainable Climate Policies - China and the USA

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Sustainable Climate Policies: China and the USA
PSCI 428 UG (3) on line
Zoom office hours by appointment
Professor Peter Koehn

PSCI 428 can count as one of the core “society” courses available to students who minor in Climate Change Studies, as an elective course in the environmental contributors focus of the Migration Studies Certificate, and as a core course in the International Development Studies minor. Recommended pre-requisite: Climate and Society (NRSM 326) or background concerning the science and society issues that surround climate change.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

Sustainable Climate Policies: China and the USA explores the contributions of the United States and China to global climatic change, the reasons why both nation-states are the world’s two largest emitters of greenhouse gases, the future vulnerabilities of both countries to climatic change, prevailing national and subnational government policies that affect emission levels, the roles of NGOs and individuals, and climatic-stabilization alternatives. The course includes attention to useful and practical sustainable-climate policy approaches in China and the USA. The impact of climate destabilization on development and migration captures attention throughout the course. Issue-bundling and policy-framing strategies are considered in depth. Emerging and prospective partnerships among multilevel governments, NGOs, and communities will be explored. Issues for the Global South are considered, with particular attention to India.

Working individually and interactively with classmates, with feedback and source suggestions from the instructor, students will propose, outline, debate, finalize, and defend creative local, regional, national, or transnational GHG-mitigation policies involving China and the USA. One important outcome of these exercises will be deeper understanding of the constraints and possibilities involved in developing sustainable climate policies in the two countries.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students should have achieved the following:

- gained comparative understanding of government policy-making processes and positions that affect climate-change mitigation in China and the United States
- be able to discern current and potential interests and roles of domestic and transnational nonstate actors with respect to climate mitigation
- be able to identify the principal constraints on, and opportunities for, policy change – particularly at the subnational level – in China and the United States
- gained insight regarding ways to influence climate-mitigation-policy outcomes in both countries
- be able to design and defend an emission-mitigation-policy proposal for China or the United States

REQUIRED TEXT

Koehn, Peter. *China Confronts Climate Change: A Bottom-up Perspective*. London and New York: Routledge Advances in Climate Change Research Series (2016).

This syllabus is presented as a general guide to the course that is subject to amendment or deviation.

- The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction by supporting collaboration among students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Disability Equity (ODE). Students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodations. To request course modifications, please contact me at the beginning of the semester so that proper accommodations can be provided. I will work with you and Disability Services in the accommodation process. For more information, visit ODE in Lommasson Center 154 or the Disability Services website at <http://www.umt.edu/dss/> or call 406.243.2243 (Voice/Text).
- You should be aware that as a student at the University of Montana, you must practice academic honesty and are bound by the following Code of Academic Conduct: <http://www.umt.edu/studentaffairs/sccAcademicConduct.htm>

As the code explains, academic misconduct includes plagiarism, cheating, and deliberate interference with the work of others. It is the intellectual equivalent of fraud—a crime against the codes of the academy. *As an academic crime, plagiarism merits academic punishment, ranging from an F on the assignment or for the course, to suspension or expulsion from the University.*

“If you are facing barriers to succeeding in this class such as not having enough food to eat, not having stable housing, or any other basic needs insecurities, help is available! Visit the [UM Food Pantry](#) for free food, hygiene products, and SNAP application assistance. Hours and location information are on their website. For all other Basic Needs questions, visit [ASUM Bear Necessities](#).” Links to websites: Umt.edu/asum/agencies/bear-necessities Umt.edu/pantry

The University of Montana and your instructor recommend that all students get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Writing Support: The Writing Center through the Office of Student Success provides students with drop-in and appointment-based writing support. These services are free for students and can be quite helpful.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. The UM Student Conduct Code defines plagiarism as "Representing another person's words, ideas, data, or materials as one's own or the student's own previous work as if it were the student's own original work." All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <https://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/student-code-of-conduct-2020-pdf> See the University of Montana *Catalog's* policy on incompletes and plagiarism.

The instructor will deny late-drop petitions (after the 31st day of instruction).

Here is the University's portal to help students find resources, do self-checks for common stressors/issues, and set goals: <https://you.umt.edu>