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Spring 2-1-2023

NRSM 349E.02: Climate Change Ethics and Policy

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Grading Scale:

93-100 = A; 90-92 = A-; 88-89 = B+; 83-87 = B; 80-82 = B-; 78 - 79 = C+; 73 - 77 = C; 70 - 72 = C-; 69 - 68 = D+; 67 - 62 = D; 61-60 = D-; Below 59 = F

Course Outline and Schedule**Part I: How to think about climate change****Week 1**

- 1/16 No class
- 1/18 Course introduction
- 1/20 Groups A and B attend face-to-face
Stephen Gardiner, "Why climate change is an ethical problem"
Sandel, Chapter 1, "Do the right thing"

Week 2

- 1/23 Mann, "How to talk about climate change so people will listen"
- 1/25 Sandel, "The lost art of democratic debate" (video)
- 1/27 Group A face-to-face (f2f)
Group B online discussion forums 1 & 2 (OL)
--Robinson, *The Ministry of the Future*, Chapters, 1-6
--PBS, NOVA, "Can we cool the planet?" (video)

Week 3

- 1/30 Steffen, et al. "Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene"
- 2/1 Spat & Dunlop, "Existential climate-related security risks: A scenario approach"
Global Priorities Project 2017, "Existential risk: Diplomacy and governance"
- 2/3 Group A OL
Group B f2f
--Intelligence-Squared Debates, "Engineering Solar Radiation is a Crazy Idea"
(video)
--Keith, "Let's talk about geoengineering"
--Hulme & Asayama, "Betting on speculative geoengineering..."

Week 4

- 2/6 The UNFCCC & The Paris Agreement
- 2/8 Berdinesen, "On Hans Jonas' 'The Imperative of Responsibility'"
- 2/10 Group A f2f
Group B OL
--Robinson, *The Ministry of the Future*, Chapters, 7-28

Week 5

- 2/13 Klein, "Capitalism vs. the Climate"
- 2/15 McKibben, "Honey and Oil"
On Being: "Interview, Bill McKibben, The Moral Math of Climate Change" (podcast)
- 2/17 Groups A and B: Online, Test #1

Week 6

- 2/20 No class
- 2/22 Pascal Bruckner, "Against environmental panic"
- 2/24 Groups A&B both face-to-face
--Dyson, "The question of global warming"
--Yale 360, "Interview with Freeman Dyson, reluctant global warming skeptic"
--Robinson, *The Ministry of the Future*, Chapters, 61-80

Week 7

- 2/27 Dyson, "Our biotech Future"
- 3/1 Gates, "We need an energy miracle"
- 3/3 Group A OL
Group B f2f
--Robinson, *The Ministry of the Future*, Chapters, 81-91
--Gates and Dyson

Week 8

- 3/6 Nordhaus, "Climate change, our ultimate challenge" (video)
- 3/8 Krugman, "Gambling with civilization"
--Essay assigned, due 5PM, 3/31
- 3/10 Group A f2f
Group B OL
--Nordhaus' Climate Club
Robinson, *The Ministry of the Future*, Chapters, 91 - 106

Part II: Political philosophy and climate change policy**Week 9**

- 3/13 Sandel, Chapter 2, "The Greatest Happiness Principle / Utilitarianism"
- 3/15 Sandel, Chapter 2, "The Greatest Happiness Principle / Utilitarianism"
- 3/17 Groups A & B Online, Test #2

Week 10 spring break**Week 11**

- 3/27 Singer, "One atmosphere" & Singer, "The Ethics of Climate Change" (video)
- 3/29 Sandel, Chapter 3, "Do We Own Ourselves /Libertarianism"
- 3/31 Group A OL
Group B f2f
--LeGuin, "The One's Who Walk Away from Omelas"
--Brooks, "The Child in the Basement"
Essay due by 5PM

Week 12

- 4/3 Sandel, Chapter 4, "Markets and Morals"
- 4/5 Alder, "A conservative's approach to combating climate change"
Baker-Schultz, Bipartisan Climate Roadmap
- 4/7 Group A f2f
Group B OL
--Halstead, "A climate solution where all sides win" (video)
--Skim weeks' other resources

Week 13

- 4/10 Sandel, Chapter 5, "What Matters is Motive/Immanuel Kant"
- 4/12 Sandel, Chapter 6, "The Case for Equity / John Rawls"
- 4/14 Group A OL
Group B f2f
--Vonnegut, "Harrison Bergeron"

Week 14

- 4/17 Caney, "Climate change, Human Rights and moral thresholds"
- 4/19 Robinson, "Why climate change is a threat to Human Rights" (video)
- 4/21 Groups A & B both face-to-face
Class wrap-up discussion on *The Ministry for the Future*...and everything else!

Week 15

- 4/24 Sandel, Chapter 8, "Who Deserves What? / Aristotle"
- 4/26 Mike Hulme, "Climate change and virtue: An apologetic"
- 4/28 Groups A & B both online
Extra credit/optional journal forum

Week 16

- 5/1 Nussbaum, "Women's Capabilities and social justice"
- 5/3 Holland, "Justice and the Environment in Nussbaum's Capabilities Approach"
- 5/5 Groups A & B Online, Test #3

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Make an appointment or stop by (via Zoom) during office hours to talk about your accommodations and how to use them for this course. If you plan on using an accommodation for an assignment, you must let me know in advance. I will do my best to grant the accommodation if it does not undermine the objectives of the assignment. However, you must contact me prior to the due date—even better, prior

to the start of the assignment—to let me know if you will need to use an accommodation that allows for an extension on the deadline. I cannot grant a deadline extension retroactively.

Important Dates and Deadlines (Registrar's Office)

Click on <https://www.umt.edu/registrar/calendar.php> to see the calendar for important dates and deadlines about adding, dropping, payment, withdrawals, etc.

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In an effort to ensure that students are informed about the consequences of academic misconduct, the Academic Officers of The University of Montana have determined that the following statement must be present on every course syllabus. You will be held to these standards in this course.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with [Student Conduct Code](#).

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. The U of M's 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." Students may be asked for their research or sources at any time. Plagiarism will be handled in strict accordance with the University of Montana Student Conduct Code.

Email policy at UM

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