1-2014

GPHY 525.01: Seminar on Paleoclimate and Global Change

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# Geography 525: Seminar on Paleoclimate & Global Change

## Spring 2014 Syllabus

**Instructor:** Dr. Anna E. Klene  
**Class Time:** T&H 2:10-3:30 pm, 217 Stone Hall  
**E-mail:** anna.klene@umontana.edu  
**Office hrs.:** T&H 3:40-4:30 pm, 216 Stone Hall


**Optional:**  

**Moodle:** Access the login page from UM’s homepage. Enter your NetID and password.

**Objectives:** By the end of this course, you should know the major controlling factors of climate through time, be familiar with reconstruction methods, appreciate the impacts of climate on previous civilizations, and evaluate our current understanding of future climate challenges.

## Tentative Schedule

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<th>February</th>
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<th>March</th>
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| Week 1  | 28 – Introduction & Review Climate Basics  
R: Online Supplement & 1  | 30 – Methods  
R2: Archives, Data & Models  |
| Week 2  | 4 – Planetary Evol. & Tectonic-Scale Change  
R3 & 4  | 6 – Snowball Earth Video  
Hoffman & Schrag article  |
| Week 3  | 11 – Last 100 Million Years  
R5 & 6  | 13 – Orbital-Scale (Milankovitch Cycles)  
R7 & article  |
| Week 4  | 18 – Glacial Responses  
R9 & EPICA article & Cowie 4.6.1  | 20 – Last Glacial Maximum  
R12 & Cowie 4.6.1 (first part)  |
| Week 5  | 25 – Deglaciation  
R13 & Strong & Hills paper  | 27 – Video on Ice Ages – Broecker & Denton articles **Paper Topic Due**  |
| Week 6  | 4 – Millennial Oscillations  
R14  | 6 – Mid-Holocene Dust Event  
Linden Chps & Davis & Thompson  |
| Week 7  | 11 – The Anthropocene  
R15 & Ruddiman, 2005 & Cowie 4.6.1b  | 13 – Climate since 1000  
R16 & Thompson Pop. Press Articles  |
| Week 8  | 18 – MWP & LIA  
Zhang et al., Kerr, & Bünigen et al.  | 20 – Collapse: Past Societies  
Prologue & Montana & Okonski  |
| Week 9  | 25 – Collapse: Greenland Norse  
Chp. 6, 7, & 8  | 27 – Drought Year Without A Summer  
Oppenheimer article  |
| Week 10 | **Spring Break – No Classes** |  |
| Week 11 | 8 – AAG: No Instructor  
LIA Video  | 10 – AAG: Skype Class  
**Video Reviews**  |
| Week 12 | 15 – Drought in US – Stahle et al.  
& Cook et al. (only pg 93-116, 132)  | 17 – Climate since 1850 – R17 & 18  
**Paper Outline Due**  |
| Week 13 | 22 – Future Climates:  
Cowie Chp 5.2.3 & 5.3 & R19  | 24 – Future impacts & unknowns  
Cowie Chp 6.5  |
| Week 14 | 29 – Human Ecology & Climate Change  
Cowie Chp 7.1  | 1 – Sustainability & Policy  
Cowie Chp 8.1 & 8.5  |
| May    | 6 – Guest Speaker: Dr. F.A. Heinisch:  
Climate Solutions  | 8 – Heinisch cont – Nature paper  
**Papers Due Friday by 5pm**  |

**Exams**  
Tuesday, May 13th – 1:10-3:10 pm: Student Presentations
1. Course Outline - KEEP and use the attached outline to maintain continuity throughout the course.

2. Reading Assignments - The required reading assignments form the basis of class discussion in seminars. Typically at least one chapter and often 2 lengthy readings will be assigned for each class.

3. Student-led Discussions – Almost every day, one student will be assigned to provide a handout summarizing the main points of that reading and to lead a discussion of that piece. The handout and discussion leadership will be graded.

4. Video Review – Each student will select one video from a list to watch and review. Each student will write a 3 sentence blurb describing and reviewing the film and will also discuss the film for 5 minutes in class.

5. Term Paper – Each student will prepare a paper on some topic related to global change. It is recommended the topic be a potential thesis project or cover a subject that may be useful for future employment. The paper will be an ~ 8-10 page literature review. It is important not just summarize the literature, but also evaluate the different sources as it is an essential component of the scientific process.

6. Class Presentations – All students will give a presentation on their paper. This presentation (~ 15 min) will review the student’s topic, findings, and major conclusions. All of these presentations should be well planned, well illustrated, and given in a formal manner. Grading will reflect the presentation as well as the content.

7. Participation – A participation grade will be given for days with discussions and reflect how much the student contributed to the discussion. Completing the readings is expected prior to class. This is not an attendance grade however, so in the case of a family emergency, please see the instructor.

8. Academic Dishonesty - The university policy for cheating is clearly addressed on the website http://www.umt.edu/studentaffairs/sccacademicconduct.htm. Students cheating will be reported to the proper offices and receive a failing grade for the course.

9. Reasonable Accommodation - The university policy on students with disabilities is clearly addressed on the website http://www.umt.edu/dss/default.htm. Students who need assistance should contact the instructor immediately so that appropriate forms and procedures can be completed.

10. Final Course Grade – At the end of the course, the distribution will be examined and letter grades assigned at approximately: A=>90%, B=80-90%, C=70-80%, D=60-70%, etc. The “+/−” grading system will be used. There will be no extra credit of any kind.

**Grading:**

- Student-led Discussions 60 (30 pts x 2)
- Video Review 10
- Participation 30
- Paper Topic & Description 10
- Paper Outline 10
- Final Paper 60
- Paper Presentation 20

**Total** 200 pts.

*** This syllabus may be modified as necessary during the course. Ask the instructor if you have any questions about when materials are due.  

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