

PUBP 3320 Syllabus

Climate Policies, JG, 3 Credits

Fall 2026

Instructor Information

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General Course Information

Description

Anthropogenic Climate change is a global problem that requires international cooperation and interdisciplinary solutions. The complexity of this environmental threat is based on the need for a fundamental shift in the way our global socio-political and economic systems operate, as well as our individual choices. This complexity makes climate policies at national and global levels very difficult to develop and implement.

This course aims to address the complexity of climate change, by bringing together the science of climate change, the analysis of its impacts, and the socio-economic, policy, and engineering strategies available to reduce carbon emissions. In this class, students will be actively engaged in exploring the scientific and socio-economic issues underlying the threat of global climate change and the institutions engaged in negotiating an international response. Although complex issues will be studied in this course, there are no assumed prerequisite courses or advanced knowledge, and this course is appropriate for students in any major.

Course Learning Outcomes

In the course, we will address several important questions:

- What is the scientific basis of climate change? What are the sources of greenhouse gases (GHG)?
- What are the impacts of climate change on human well-being and on the natural world?
- What are the science-based targets of GHG emissions reductions required for a sustainable planet?
- What can be done to adapt to climate change? Should we price carbon or subsidize low-carbon energy? What technologies exist or might be developed to allow us to slow climate change?

- What types of international and national policies have been effective so far?

Required Course Materials

- Solving the climate crisis - John J. Berger (2023)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Six Assessment Report <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>
- National Climate Assessment (NCA): <https://www.climatecentral.org/climate-matters/new-national-climate-assessment-2023>
- The Inflation Reduction Act: <https://www.energy.gov/lpo/inflation-reduction-act-2022>

Grading Policy:

Assignment	Points	Weight Final Grade
Midterm Exam	100	10%
Final Exam	100	10%
Individual Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book Chapter (100 points) • City Climate Policies (100 points) Only presentations	200	20%
Team Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional/State Climate Policies (100 points) • NDCs (100 points) Only presentations	200	20%
Final Team Presentation – National Climate Policy Presentation: 100 points AND paper (1,500 words) (100 points)	200	20%

Extracurricular Activity Presentation AND paper (2 pages)	100	10%
Class Participation	100	10%
Total	1000	100%

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F 0-59%

Description of Graded Components

-Class Attendance & Participation (100 points)

Attendance and participation are very important as they contribute to the overall learning and enjoyment of the class. Class Attendance includes a physical presence during class and participation.

Note: Zoom attendance is reserved for emergency cases that must be approved by the instructor before the class.

A prerequisite to participating is showing up. Attendance is taken. Institute-excused absences should be communicated at least 24 hours ahead of time, via email, to the instructor. Commentary and questions that contribute to the in-class discussions and demonstrate thoughtful consideration of assigned readings will make up the second portion of your participation grade.

Final Participation Points = Attendance + Participation

- No absences + Participation = 100 points
- One absence + Participation = 90 points
- Two absences + Participation = 80 points
- Three absences + Participation = 70 points
- Four or more absences = 0 points

-Individual Presentations (200 points)

Students are required to research and prepare a PowerPoint presentation about the topics listed below and present their findings to the entire class (see dates in the syllabus). Each presentation should not exceed 5 minutes.

- Book Chapter Assigned in Class (100 points)
- City Climate Policy (100 points)

-Individual Extracurricular Activity (100 points)

Students are required to choose an extracurricular activity related to a World City, prepare a presentation, and write a paper. Examples of extracurricular activities are working on a voluntary for a world city project, attending a world city event, or interviewing an official working for a world city. Students are required to prepare a PowerPoint presentation and make a 5-minute presentation of the activity to the class, as well as write and submit in Canvas a two-page paper (not including title page, references, or appendixes; one-half spaced; 12 fonts; APA guidelines).

-Teams Assignments (400 points)

Student will be randomly assigned to a team of 3-4 members.

Teams will be assigned to research and present to the class the following topics.

- Regional or State Climate Policy (100 points): Only presentation
- NDC (100 points): Only presentation
- National Climate Policy: Presentation (100 points) + Paper (100 points)

At the end of each one of the presentations, each one of the students will be required to complete an evaluation form for members of her/his team, including themselves.

The earned grades for the presentation will be an average among the quality of the presentation, the quality of the report, and the team-group evaluation form.

Papers and Presentations:

The paper and presentations should be submitted on Canvas. The paper should be a minimum of 1,500 words (one-and-a-half spaced, 12 font) using APA Style guidelines)

-Midterm Exam (100 points) and Final Exam (100 points)

Exams will be administered in-class via Canvas and have been scheduled to cover roughly the first and second halves of the course. All exam material will be drawn from the assigned readings, lectures, and guest presentations. Each exam will consist of two sections: short answer and essay. Approximately one week prior to an exam, the instructor will distribute a list of key concepts to focus study.

Course Policies

Attendance and/or Participation

Attendance and participation are very important as they contribute to the overall learning and enjoyment of the class. Class Attendance includes a physical presence during class and participation. Students are allowed to miss up to three (3) classes but will be grade zero if four (4) or more classes are missed.

Note: Zoom attendance is reserved for emergency cases that must be approved by the instructor before the class.

A prerequisite to participating is showing up. Attendance is taken. Institute-excused absences should be communicated at least 24 hours ahead of time, via email, to the instructor. Commentary and questions that contribute to the in-class discussions and demonstrate thoughtful consideration of assigned readings will make up the second portion of your participation grade.

Final Participation Points = Attendance + Participation

- No absences + Participation = 100 points
- One absence + Participation = 90 points
- Two absences + Participation = 80 points
- Three absences + Participation = 70 points
- Four or more absences = 0 points

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. Articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Use of Generative AI

If you choose to use **Generative Artificial Intelligence** software (for example ChatGPT, Bard, Microsoft Copilot, etc.) in completing ANY assignments for this class, you must include a proper reference in your work. If you choose to use precise language generated by the software, you must quote it. The reference must include the website and specific prompts used to generate the referenced output. For an example of how to reference, you may want to consult APA.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

Assignments turned in after the specified due date will incur a grade penalty according to the following schedule:

- Within 24 hours of original due date: 10% deduction off the final grade
- Between 24-48 hours of original due date: 20% deduction off the final grade
- Between 48-72 hours of original due date: 30% deduction off the final grade
- **After 72 hours the grade will be zero for the assignment.**

For team presentations, you will be expected to present on the day assigned to your group and these presentations will not be accepted for partial credit after the date assigned.

Inclement Weather and Digital Learning Days

In case of inclement weather, we will meet via Zoom **in Canvas**.

Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom

Laptops, tablets, e-readers, and other digital devices may be used to take notes, refer to relevant information, and complete in-class assignments. If you are using a digital device for non-course purposes at any time during the semester, you will be asked to refrain from using it for the remainder of the course. No exceptions.

Campus Resources for Students

Undergraduate Student Academic Success Resources:

- Academic Support: Academic Success and Advising (a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Education & Student Success) provides free support for your courses. Students can attend scheduled supplemental review (PLUS) sessions, stop by Drop-In Tutoring, or schedule a one-on-one appointment through Knack. To explore what options work best for you, please visit us online at success.gatech.edu/tutoring, email us at tutoring@gatech.edu, or come see us at Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, Suite 283.

Graduate Student Academic and Professional Success Resources:

A list of resources for graduate students is given on the [Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Education](#) website. Specific information for [current graduate students](#) includes

- [Academic Resources](#) such as the Communications Center, Language Institute, Library, Catalog, Registrar, resources for conducting research, Advocacy and Conflict Resolution resources, and how to manage unexpected situations that may impact your academic performance;
- [Student Resources](#) such as Campus Services, Child Care/Family programs, Health & Wellness, Career Services, and the Student Resource Guide; and
- [Professional Development](#) such as the programming from the Career Center and other professional development resources and events”

Student Well-Being:

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list](#) of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being ([student-resource-guide \(gatech.edu\)](#))