

OBJECTIVES

This course has three main aims:

To acquaint students with the core philosophical discussions related to climate change, including the main questions, positions, and arguments, and how they are related to broader philosophical frameworks.

To give students training and practice in the use of philosophical methods to tackle “wicked problems”—complex, intractable problems with both moral and practical dimensions—including following, analyzing and evaluating logically complex arguments, contributing to fruitful exploratory discussions and debates with their peers employing the concepts of epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics, and constructing clear and cogent arguments in philosophical terms that are well-informed by empirical science.

To provide students with the opportunities and models that they need to begin to do some substantial philosophical exploration of issues surrounding climate change themselves—to make sense of the relationships between philosophy and climate science, to identify and weigh philosophical problems in our understanding of climate change and our possible responses to it, and to formulate substantial claims in this area and defend them both orally and in writing.

REQUIREMENTS

The class format will consist of lecture and discussion. Discussion will be an important element of the course, so it is important that you stay on top of the reading and do some thinking about it before class. Course requirements include active participation, several short informal writing exercises, one short (6 page) paper, a longer (10 page) final paper, and a short-essay final exam. They are weighted as follows:

Participation.....	10%
Informal Writing.....	15%
Short Paper.....	20%
Exam.....	25%
Final Paper.....	30%

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first

