



# SOS 335 Culture and Climate Change

Winter 2024

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course will use an interdisciplinary approach to investigate the rhetoric used by diverse stakeholders, study representations of climate change in literature and media, and dig into case studies of social reactions. By the end of the course, students will have a thorough grasp of how narratives impact perceptions and behaviors related to climate change, allowing them to engage critically with environmental discourse and contribute to constructive societal solutions to this global issue.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the climate change argument and its rhetorical methods.
2. Use literary approaches to properly examine climate narratives.
3. Examine how narratives influence society reactions to climate change.
4. Exposure to other points of view and arguments can help you improve your critical thinking abilities.

## **PREREQUISITES**

N/A

## **GRADING**

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
Quizzes	15 Points



Assignments	20 Points
Discussions	20 Points
Midterm	20 Points
Final Exam	25 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

### COURSE MATERIALS

**Required Texts:**

Harriet Bulkeley , Matthew Paterson , Johannes Stripple, *Towards a Cultural Politics of Climate Change*, Cambridge University Press, 2016.

**Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

None

### COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <p>Topic 1: Analysis of the European Commission's Climate Campaign: Strategies for Effective Governance.</p> <p>Topic 2: Economic transformation in urban Australia: Influencing low-carbon preferences</p> <p>Topic 3: Revamping Community Housing: Implementing Low-Carbon Lifestyles</p> <p>Topic 4: Insights into Sustainability: Understanding Low-Carbon Lifestyles in Urban Australia</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b></p> <p>Quiz#1</p> <p>Discussion#1</p>



<p>Module 2</p>	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 5: Implementing sustainable solutions: Improving Community Housing for Long-Term Low-Carbon Living  Topic 6: Promoting Environmental Awareness and Self-Regulation in a Low-Carbon Society  Topic 7: Investigating Cultural Responses to Climate Change: A Study on Climate Grief  Topic 8: Understanding Individual Behavior: Psychological Aspects of Adopting Low Carbon Practices</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Quiz#2  Assignment#1</p>
<p>Module 3</p>	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 9: Navigating Urban Dynamics: Low-Carbon Transportation in a Changing Cultural Environment  Topic 10: Changing Urban Transportation: Adapting to Low-Carbon Mobility Trends  Topic 11: Rice Consumption and Climate Action: An Investigation of Urban Dietary Trends  Topic 12: Uncovering Subtle Agendas: Investigating Political Undercurrents in Housing Efficiency</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Midterm  Assignment#2</p>
<p>Module 4</p>	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 13: Retail Practices and Climate Impact: Assessing the Economic Dimensions of Refrigeration.  Topic 14: Overcoming Challenges in Zero-Carbon Home Construction: An Innovative Green Building  Topic 15: Advocating for Sustainable Energy: Socio-Ethical Dimensions of Wind Power Activism.  Topic 16: Examining Climate Discourse: Interactions among Devices, Desires, and Disagreements</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Quiz#3  Discussion#2</p>
<p>Module 5</p>	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 17: Measure Carbon Footprints: An Analysis of Environmental Impacts from Orange Juice Production  Topic 18: Strategies for Climate Advocacy: Learning from Effective Governance Strategies  Topic 19: Cultural perspectives on climate adaptation: strategies for dealing</p>



	with environmental loss. Topic 20: Evaluating Environmental Impacts: Understanding the Ecological Footprint of Food Choices <b>Assessments:</b> Final Exam
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## **ATTENDANCE**

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

## **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest



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of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

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Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

### **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

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Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.