

SYLLABUS for ARSC 110 INEE SEMINAR ON GLOBAL WARMING

Fall 2008, Wednesdays 3:35-6:15, Raynor 320A

Dr. Schaefer, Instructor

Office Hours MW 2-3:15 p.m. and by appointment

115 Coughlin Hall, 83742, schaeferj@

ARES Password=Global Warming

www.inee.mu.edu

DESCRIPTION: Open to students seeking minors in Environmental Ethics and in Ethics, this seminar will (1) explore the latest available data on the ecological, economic, geographical, health, political, and social effects of climate change due to global warming, (2) reflect philosophically and theologically on those effects, and (3) develop an ethical response following the principle of subsidiarity on how present humans should act to mitigate the adverse effects of global warming. To gather information about pertinent issues, students will study the latest data on global warming indicators, learn from faculty who teach courses required for the Interdisciplinary Minor in Environmental Ethics how their disciplines address this phenomenon, gain insights from governmental officials and representatives of key sectors who are investigating and responding to global warming indicators, and research major dimensions of the real and projected effects. After drafting research findings and sharing them in class, students will collaborate in identifying the ethical issues pertaining to global warming, theological and philosophical resources that can ground a response, and principles that should guide human behavior from personal to international levels of activity.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Demonstrate (1) ability to critically research and apply the most recent data on the ecological, economic, geographical, health, political, and social effects of climate change due to global warming; (2) competency in understanding, analyzing, prioritizing, and applying significant philosophical and theological approaches to addressing climate change, including the Catholic theological principles of subsidiarity and the common good; (3) capacity to collaborate with other students in developing an ethical response to climate change; (4) research skills in identifying significant sources on the topic as directed; (5) accuracy and competency in drafting and presenting assigned research on the topic; and, (6) producing a final research report as part of the seminar report on the climate change focus.

BASIS FOR GRADE: Participation in writing and orally on assigned readings, supportive tasks, review of draft reports, and making decisions on recommendations (60%); research on and presentation of draft report (20%); and, final written report as part of the seminar project (20%).

CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY: Because presence in class is crucial to understanding and assessing assigned and presented materials, attendance is mandatory. After ONE absences, your class participation grade will be reduced by 10%, and TWO absences will warrant your withdrawal from the course with a WA notation. Frequent tardiness will also reduce your grade.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: Each student is expected to represent his or her own efforts in all assignments and examinations. Penalties for academic dishonesty will be rigorously administered as indicated in the Undergraduate Bulletin <<http://www.marquette.edu/rc/bulletin.shtml>>.

REQUIRED BOOKS

Gore, A., *An Inconvenient Truth* (Rodale 2006)

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2007* (Cambridge University 2007)

McFague, S., *A New Climate For Theology : God, The World, And Global Warming* (Fortress 2008)

Northcott, M.S., *A Moral Climate: The Ethics of Global Warming* (Orbis 2007)

Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* (USCCB 2007) (selections on subsidiarity and common good)

U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good* (USCCB, 2001)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

August 27 Introduction to the Seminar and Identification of Seminar project focus

- Examination and revision of syllabus, texts, criteria for evaluation, and tentative schedule.
- Overview of IPCC report and assignment of sections to review.
- Initial discussion of possible foci for the seminar project.
- Critical viewing and discussion of IPCC/Gore's An Inconvenient Truth (96 min)

September 3 Advancing the Seminar Project

- Follow-up discussion of IPCC/Gore movie and text as assigned.
- Discussion of seminar project focus possibilities.
- Assignment of sections of IPCC Synthesis report to discuss next session.
- Assignment for identifying sources contesting IPCC conclusions.

September 10 Examination of IPCC Report, Contesting Views, and Physics Contributions to Topic

- Reports on sections of IPCC Synthesis Report with reference to corresponding volumes I-III.
- Discussion of sources and content of contrary views.
- Presentation by/discussion with Dr. Zbig Sorbjan, meteorologist and MU Physics Research Professor

September 17 Biology's Contributions to Climate Change

- Presentation by/discussion with Dr. Gail Shumann, MU Biology Professor.
- Discussion of sources assigned and content of contrary views.

September 24 Economics' Contributions

- Presentation by/discussion with Dr. Heather Kohls, MU Economics Professor.
- Discussion of points made in pertinent sections of IPCC and contrary sources.
- Identification of seminar report focus.

October 1 Philosophy's Contributions-Focus on Ethics

- Discussion of assigned sections of Northcott's A Moral Climate.

October 8 Philosophy's Contributions

- Discuss remainder of Northcott as assigned.
- Identification of philosophical/ethical points to include in seminar report.

October 15 Theology's Contributions

- Discussion of assigned sections of McFague's A New Climate for Theology.
- Submit list of sources to be used in assigned section of seminar report.

October 22 Theology's Contributions

- Discussion of remainder of McFague's book.
- Possible teleconference with McFague.
- Submit Outline of sections of report.

October 29 Catholic Bishops, the Principle of Subsidiarity, and the Common Good

- Discussion of the USCCB's Global Climate Change, Llamzon's "Subsidiarity: The Term, Its Metaphysics and Use" and excerpts on the principle and the common good from Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church and other sources.
- Collaborate in identifying theological rationale for seminar report that two students will draft.

November 5 and 12 Review of Draft Reports
Draft reports due on November 3 and 10.

November 19 Review of Recommendations
Draft recommendations due November 17.

December 3 Review of Final Report and Plan for Dissemination
Revised sections of report due December 1.
If necessary, we will use the allocated final examination time of Friday, December 12, 10:30-12:30
or an alternate day/time to present the seminar report to an audience of your choice.

