

The Politics of Climate Change
POLSCI / ENVIRON / INTLSTD 370

GSI: Graham Diedrich
Office Hours: Wednesdays 3–5 p.m.
Office Hour Location: Haven Hall 6738 (or [Zoom](#))
Office Hour Sign-Up: [Link](#)

Email: diedgr@umich.edu
Sections:
Section 003 T 5–6 p.m., 2334 SEB
Section 005 F 10–11 a.m., G228 AH

The role of this section is to complement Professor Gazmararian's lectures on the study of the politics of climate change. The meetings will provide an opportunity for students to ask questions about course material and to structure discussion around lecture topics.

Attendance: Attendance on section is mandatory. You have one unexcused section absence. Office hours do not replace sections missed due to unexcused absences. Students with family responsibilities, athletic commitments, or religious conflicts should discuss those with me as soon as possible.

Participation: One of the best ways to build your understanding of new material is to actively discuss and work out the answers yourselves. Everyone is expected to contribute to the discussion on a regular basis. I will keep internal weekly notes to ensure fairness and accuracy, but grades will be updated in the gradebook at midterm and at the end of the semester. To promote an atmosphere of mutual respect and collective inquiry, I expect you to adhere to the following guidelines for participation:

Criterion	Excellent (Full Credit)	Satisfactory (Partial Credit)	Needs Improvement (Little/No Credit)
Preparation for Class (20% of participation grade)	Consistently completes all readings and comes to class ready with notes, questions, or points to discuss.	Usually completes readings but may come with limited notes or preparation.	Rarely completes readings or comes unprepared.
Quality of Contribution (30% of participation grade)	Contributions are clear, relevant, and advance discussion; uses evidence from readings; makes connections between ideas.	Contributions are sometimes relevant but may be vague, off-topic, or not clearly linked to readings.	Contributions are minimal, off-topic, or absent.
Listening & Engagement with Others (20% of participation grade)	Actively listens, responds to peers' points, and builds on others' ideas; avoids interrupting.	Listens but rarely engages with peers' comments or does so superficially.	Does not listen attentively; interrupts or dismisses peers' contributions.
Frequency & Balance of Participation (20% of participation grade)	Participates regularly without dominating; creates space for others to contribute.	Participates occasionally or may dominate at times; uneven balance.	Rarely participates or consistently dominates without inviting others in.
Respect & Professionalism (10% of participation grade)	Always communicates respectfully; fosters a constructive, inclusive discussion environment.	Generally respectful, with occasional lapses in tone or inclusivity.	Disrespectful, unprofessional, or exclusionary behavior.

POLSCI 370 Section Syllabus

Scoring:

- 90%–100% = Excellent participation; exceeds expectations.
- 70%–80% points = Meets expectations with minor areas for improvement.
- 60% or below = Needs significant improvement.

Office Hours: My office hours are on Wednesday between 3–5 p.m. Office hours are held in person at Haven Hall 6738. If you are unable to meet in person, you may also request a Zoom meeting. Please make office hour appointments using this [link](#). Each slot lasts 15 minutes—feel free to book two if you think that 15 minutes might not be enough to cover everything you wish to discuss with me.

Email: If you cannot come to office hours, email is the best way to contact me with quick questions. I will do my best to respond to your emails within 24 hours, from 9–5 Monday through Friday. If I have not responded within 24 hours, please send a follow up. An email sent to me at 5:01 pm on Friday can expect a response by 5:00 pm Monday. All emails should begin the subject line with [POLSCI 370].

Canvas: Each section will have a Canvas site, which I will use to communicate with you regularly. This is in addition to the course lecture canvas site. It is your responsibility to keep up with these updates.

Section Grade: Your section grade constitutes 10% of your course grade. 50% of your grade is dependent on participation, while 50% is dependent on attendance. Please see the participation rubric and attendance policy above.

Section Activities: Each section will center around a debate from the assigned readings each week. In section, you will be randomly assigned to one of three roles. You will either be assigned to argue for, against, or to serve as a judge. You will break out into small groups to put together your arguments—or, in the case of judges, prepare by discussing the facts both groups may be relying on. Groups will then share their arguments and the judges will come to a final verdict with justification.

Mental Health: University can be challenging and stressful. Feeling overwhelmed and in need of help is completely normal. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (734) 764-8312 and/or at <https://caps.umich.edu/>. You may also consult the University Health Service (UHS) at (734) 764-8320.

Sexual Misconduct Policy: Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes sexual misconduct — including harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We understand that sexual violence can undermine students' academic success and we encourage anyone dealing with sexual misconduct to talk to someone about their experience, so they can get the support they need.

Confidential support and academic advocacy can be found with the Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center (SAPAC) on their 24-hour crisis line, (734) 936-3333 and at sapac.umich.edu. Alleged violations can be non-confidentially reported to the Office for Institutional Equity (OIE) at institutional.equity@umich.edu.

Syllabus subject to change at instructor's discretion.