



## GEOG 095: Facing Environmental Futures

UVM Summer Academy 2020 — M-F 7/5 to 7/31,  
Location TBD

### Instructor

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### Course Description:

As we move deeper into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, one thing seems certain: the state of the global environment is *uncertain*. Whether climate change, oceanic acidification, biodiversity loss, forest fires, or drought, it is clear that society faces a number of challenges that threaten to undermine human health and well-being. In this course, we will examine the nature of these challenges focusing primarily on climate change. We will ask questions about how the climate emergency came to be and how we might respond to it in just, equitable, and courageous ways. In addition to thinking through some of the greater challenges of our time, this course offers an introduction to key concepts in the discipline of geography. Course materials reflect range of concerns related to climate change as well as the diverse approaches to understanding them. Instruction is primarily discussion-based and we will draw on environmental data and creative concepts to strategize how to face forward and build better futures.

### This course aims to:

- Introduce students to foundational concepts in geography and political ecology.
- Provide a global comparative framework for understanding environmental risk and climate change.
- Improve student writing and communication skills.

### At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Have an informed conversation about the multiple dimensions of environmental change.
- Recognize and assess how environmental changes impact their lives.
- Explain *how* and *why* political and/or environmental crises unevenly affect different populations.
- Analyze existing and proposed environmental policy and legislation.
- Advocate for political and/or environmental policy choices using the skills and knowledge gained in this course.

### Essential Information

Blackboard site: <https://bb.uvm.edu>

### Required Course Materials:

1. *Required book purchase currently under review.*
2. Additional required readings will be posted on Blackboard

### Course Website (Blackboard):

This course's website will be run through Blackboard, which you can access here: <https://bb.uvm.edu>. Blackboard will be primarily used for the following: Course announcements, basic course information including the syllabus, readings, grades, assignments, and discussion forums.

### Attendance Policy and Classroom Environment Expectations:

Attendance: While on campus this course is a discussion-based course. Students are expected attend each class. If you are ill or have an emergency situation that forces you to miss class, please contact me at once. Should you miss a class, it is

your responsibility to ask for notes from a classmate and to make up any missed reading or work. During the online component of this course, discussions will take hold through Blackboard forums. You are expected to remain active during this period.

Fostering a Critical and Responsible Learning Environment: Throughout the course, please feel free to express your ideas and enter into dialogue with your fellow students. Although I encourage you to express your views, I expect that you will be courteous to others, respect different views, and refrain from personal attacks—in class, outside of class and on-line. In this class we do not debate, we discuss. Failure to abide by these expectations will result in a reduced class engagement grade or disenrollment. During class, all phones must be turned off (no texting allowed). Laptops may be used for taking notes or engaging in class activities only and must not be connected to the Internet during class unless otherwise directed during specific activities. All assigned readings must be completed before class and all students must arrive on time.

Recording and Transmission of Course Materials: Consistent with the University's policy on intellectual property rights, teaching and curricular materials (including but not limited to classroom lectures, class notes, exams, handouts, and presentations) are the property of the instructor. Therefore, electronic recording and/or transmission of classes or class notes is prohibited without the express written permission or request of the instructor. Such permission is to be considered unique to the needs of an individual student (e.g. ADA compliance), and not a license for permanent retention or electronic dissemination to others.

### **Assessments:**

Class Attendance & Participation 25 pts. (≈20%)

You are expected to come to each class, to complete all readings and assignments *before* the start of class, and to participate in class discussions, activities and assignments. Attendance will be noted at each class meeting. You will lose credit if you do not attend each class, or if you do not regularly participate in class.

Exploratory Writing Essays (2) 50 pts. (≈38%)

There will be 2 short (2-3 page) essays assigned to encourage connections among reading, writing, and thinking (see syllabus for due dates). The format of these essays will be exploratory and/or situational and will range from formal to informal. More detail will be included on our course website. Essays are worth up to 25 points each.

Journal Entries (3) 15 pts (5 pts/week) (≈ 12%)

Over the course of the summer academy I'd like you to keep a regular journal—at least 3 entries per week—to compose and collect thoughts and ideas from our readings and discussions. I will check in at the end of each week to grant credit for journal activity.

Group Final Project: Facing Environmental Futures 40 pts. (≈30%)

The final project will involve small groups developing visual, textual, and/or audio representation of climate-change related issues. The aim for this project is to draw on course content as well as various modes of representing information. Taken together each group's project will contribute to a class-wide interactive guide on how to face the future in an era of uncertainty.

### **Grading Criteria/Policies:**

Late work: All assignments are due on the day listed in the course schedule. In cases where students are working with Summer Academy representatives to coordinate documented illness or other serious matters requiring deadline leniency, please contact Prof. Morehouse as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity: All submitted work must be your own, except in the specific instances when an assignment calls for collaboration. You must distinguish your own words and ideas from those of others by utilizing proper citations and references. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Detailed style guides are in our course 'Learning Resources and Guides' folder. Please also refer to UVM's Code of Academic Integrity and the Academic Integrity Program in The Center for Student Ethics and Standards for further clarification.

**Total Points Possible: 130**

**Exploratory Writing Essays (2): 50**

**Final Project: 40**

**Attendance/Participation: 25**

**Journals (3): 15**

**Grade Matrix:**

<b>A+ 98-100</b>	<b>B+ 87-89</b>	<b>C+ 77-79</b>	<b>D+ 67-69</b>	<b>F – below 60</b>
<b>A 94-97</b>	<b>B 84-86</b>	<b>C 74-76</b>	<b>D 64-66</b>	
<b>A- 90-93</b>	<b>B- 80-83</b>	<b>C- 70-73</b>	<b>D- 60-63</b>	

**GEOG095 Course Schedule Summer 2019**

*Note: This syllabus is subject to change due to scheduling logistics and solicited student input.*

<b>Week</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>ON CAMPUS PORTION</b>					
<b>1</b>	Mon	7/6	Personal Introductions, Geography & the Climate Emergency		Syllabus
	Tues	7/7	Approaching Climate Change: Top-Down and Bottom-Up Perspectives		IPCC Reports, Climatology Scholarship, Political Ecology of Climate Emergency Readings
	Weds	7/8	Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resilience		Adger and Brown, TBD
	Thurs	7/9	Psychology of Climate Change I: Denialism		Ray (2020)
	Fri	7/10	Psychology of Climate Change II: Outrage	Exploratory Essay 1 Due	Ray (2020)
	Sat	7/11		Week 1 Journal Due	
<b>2</b>	Mon	7/13	Psychology of Climate Change III: Hope and/or Cautious Optimism		Ray (2020)
	Tues	7/14	Modes of Intervention: From Protest to Policy		TBD
	Weds	7/15			TBD
	Thurs	7/16	Intergenerational Equity and Fighting for the World	Exploratory Essay 2 Due	TBD
	Fri	7/17	On-campus conclusion discussion		TBD
	Sat	7/18		Week 2 Journal Due	
<b>Online Portion</b>					
<b>3</b>	Mon	7/20	Environmental Communication		TBD
	Tues	7/21	Storytelling as Political Strategy		Le Guin, Rose
	Weds	7/22	Conducting Research for Group Projects		TBD
	Thurs	7/23			

	Fri	7/24	Organizing Ideas and Assembling a Cohesive Narrative I		TBD
	Sat	7/25		Week 3 Journal Due	
4	Mon	7/27	Organizing Ideas and Assembling a Cohesive Narrative II		TBD
	Tues	7/28	Virtual Group Work Consultations		--
	Weds	7/29			--
	Thurs	7/30	Virtual Presentations	Final Projects Due	--
	Fri	7/31	Virtual Discussion: Next steps for Facing the Future		--

**Course Bibliography**

*To come...*