

**Climate Change Ethics and Policy**  
**NRSM 449E/CCS449E**

Autumn 2015  
TR 12:40-2:00  
Health Science 441  
Instructor: Dane Scott  
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Office hours: Monday: 1:00-2:00

**Objectives:** Students will:

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of various concepts and theories of justice
- Demonstrate an understanding of the roles of justice in international negotiations

**Texts:**

- Michael Sandel, *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?*
- Dale Jamieson, *Reason in a Dark Time*
- Additional readings will be linked and posted on the course Moodle page

**Tests & Assignments:**

- Quizzes, Short Writing Assignments & Attendance: 20 pts
- Essay #1: 20 pts
- Essay #2: 20 pts
- Presentation and Policy Briefing: 20 pts
- Exam: 20 pts

**Schedule**

**Week 1**

- 9/1: Course Introduction  
9/2: Sandel, Chapter 1, "Do the Right Thing"  
Plato, "The Ring of Gyges" (Moodle)

**Week 2**

- 9/8: Jamieson, Chapter 2, "The Nature of the Problem"  
9/10: Video: Frontline, "Climate of Doubt"

**Week 3:**

- 9/15: [Freeman Dyson, "The Question of Global Warming"](#)  
["Interview with Freeman Dyson, Reluctant Global Warming Skeptic"](#)  
9/17: [Mann, "How to Talk About Climate Change so People Will Listen"](#)

**Week 4:**

- 9/22: Sandel, Chapter 2, "The Greatest Happiness Principle / Utilitarianism"  
9/24: Singer, "One Atmosphere"(Moodle)

**Week 5**

- 9/29: [Pope Francis, Encyclical "On Care of Our Common Home"](#) Chapters 4-6 (Moodle)  
10/1: [George Lakoff, "Why Pope Francis Killed It on Addressing Climate Change"](#)  
[Joseph Heath, "Pope Francis's Climate Error"](#)  
[David Brooks, "Fracking and the Franciscans"](#)  
[Anthony Annette, "Response to David Brooks"](#)  
Essay #1 Assigned, Due 10/13

**Week 6**

- 10/6: Sandel, Chapter 3, "Do We Own Ourselves / Libertarianism"  
10/8: [Adler, "A Conservative's Approach to Combating Climate Change"](#)

### **Week 7**

- 10/13: Sandel, Chapter 4, "Hired Help / Markets and Morals"  
Essay #1 Due  
10/15: Jamieson, Chapter 4, "The Limits of Economics"

### **Week 8**

- 10/20: Video: Bjorn Lomborg, "Cool It"  
10/16: [Naomi Klein, "Capitalism vs. the Climate"](#)  
[Elizabeth Kolbert, "Can Climate Change Cure Capitalism?"](#)

### **Week 9**

- 10/21: Sandel, Chapter 6, "The Case for Equity / John Rawls"  
10/22: Jamieson, Chapter 5, "The Frontiers of Ethics"

### **Week 10**

- 10/27: Caney, "Climate Change, Human Rights and Moral Thresholds" (Moodle)  
Presentations and Policy Briefings Assigned, Due 12/1 or 12/3  
10/29: **Exam**

### **Week 11**

- 11/3: [Bob Massie, "Why American Universities Must Divest from Fossil Fuel Companies"](#)  
[Robert Satvins, "Divestment is No Substitute for Real Climate Action"](#)  
Essay #2 Assigned, Due 11/12  
11/5: Jamieson, Chapter 6, "Living with Climate Change"  
Debate on UM Divestment Proposal

### **Week 12**

- 11/10: [Sen, "Global Warming is Just One of Many Environmental Threats that Demands Our Attention"](#)  
11/12: Minter and Collins, "Move It or Lose It" (Moodle)  
Essay #2 Due

### **Week 13**

- 11/17: [Ken Calderia & David Keith, "The Need for Climate Engineering Research"](#)  
11/19: [Mike Hulme, "Climate Engineering Schemes Could be Undone by Geopolitics"](#)  
[Jane Long, "Thinking the Unthinkable"](#)

### **Week 14**

- 11/24: Jamieson, Chapter 7, "Politics, Policy and the Road Ahead"  
11/26: No Class, Thanksgiving Holiday

### **Week 15**

- 12/1: Student presentations on various countries' positions going into COP 21 (Policy Briefings Due)  
12/3: Student presentations on various countries' positions going into COP 21 (Policy Briefings Due)