

Department of Anthropology

ANTHRO 2288A-650: Climate, Science and the Changing World

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2026

Date: June 25, 2026

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Trombley

Method of delivery: Online.

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

Please ensure you have the correct requisites by checking [the Academic Calendar](#).

Course Description:

The world is changing rapidly. Climate change is already affecting many people around the world and, without actions to curtail greenhouse gas emissions, it will have dramatic effects on all of our lives. Meanwhile, social and political upheaval – some driven in part by changing climates – have transformed our ways of life and limited our capacity to effectively address climate change. In this course, we will examine the intersecting dynamics of climate change, climate science, and socio-political change. You will learn to take a holistic perspective as you evaluate the ways that change – in many forms – is shaping our lives and futures.

This course will be structured in three modules. In the first module, we will examine the science of climate change, how it is affecting people now and how it will affect us all in the future. Key to this section will be understanding climate change as a fundamentally social process rather than a natural one. We will examine issues of climate justice and how some people benefit from climate change while others are harmed by it. In the second module, we will examine climate science itself. Again, we will seek to understand climate science as a social process. We will discuss the ways that climate science has developed and changed over time, and how broader social processes are pushing it to change even more now. In the final module, we will examine social changes around the world that are affecting our ability to respond and adapt to climate change effectively. These social changes include the rise of right-wing political movements, increasing corporatization, and the use of mis- and disinformation to derail climate responses.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain climate change and recognize it as a social process.

- Describe the history of climate science and the social forces that are shaping it, both past and present.
- Analyze the intersections of climatological, scientific, and social forces as they change over time.
- Critique simplistic and unscientific understandings of climate change and how it is affecting us.

Course Materials:

No textbook

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

Activities Notebook	20%
Engagement	20%
Group Projects (10%x3)	30%
Final Exam (essay/multiple choice)	20%
Pre- and post-course reflections	5% each

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