

## GEOG 4450 – Climate Change and Collective Action

### Course Outline: Fall 2022

This course is taught in-person

#### 1. Course Information

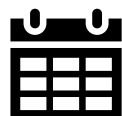
	Delivery Mode	Day/Time	Location
Lecture	In person	Tues 12:30-2:30	SSC 1004
Tutorial	In person	Thurs 1:30-2:30	SSC 1004

\*Details about the course schedule are listed below in Section 6

Classes Start	Fall Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 8	October 31-November 6	December 8	December 9	December 10-22

September 16, 2022: Last day to add a first-term half course

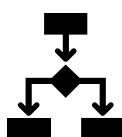
November 12, 2022: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Email	Office	Office Hours
Dr. Carol Hunsberger	chunsber@uwo.ca	SSC 2409	Thurs 12-1 or by appointment

Office hours will be held in person or remotely on Zoom (on request)

#### 2. Calendar Description



Explores the role of collective action in addressing the climate crisis. Examines theories of the state, civil society and social change, and historic and ongoing tactics of social and environmental movements. Urges shifting the focus of action from “what can I do?” toward “what can we do?” [2 lecture hours, 1 tutorial hour, 0.5 course]

##### Extended description

The course explores how a variety of strategies to push for social change can inform efforts to address the climate crisis. We begin by reviewing the challenge of achieving a just transition and considering how the scale and urgency of this task – deeply rooted in capitalist and colonial power structures – transcends the level of individual lifestyle choices. Deep decarbonization and climate justice perspectives will be compared. Theories of democracy set the stage for exploring the potential and limits of working within, against, and outside existing institutions. Student presentations will profile the tactics and achievements of historical and ongoing social movements focused on the environment, independence struggles, labour issues, anti-discrimination, and more. Students will spend the tutorials planning and carrying out a climate change action as a group, using one of the strategies studied in class. This could involve preparing a delegation to meet with a politician, running a public education campaign, lobbying the university to take a specific action, or organizing an event alongside one of London’s existing community organizations, among other possibilities.

## Prerequisites

Third- or fourth-year status and at least two of: Geography 1200A/B, 2133A/B, 3350A/B, 3443F/G, 3446F/G, or permission of the instructor.

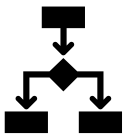
Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility. Senate Regulations state, "unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

## 3. Readings



All assigned readings and other resources will be made available on OWL, except for the film *Don't Look Up* (Week 11), which at the time of writing is only available on Netflix. In addition to required readings, each week several Further Resources are provided. While these are not mandatory, they are recommended: reading (or watching) them will extend and enrich the week's discussion.

## 4. Format



- Barring illness, attendance is expected in this small, in-person, interactive course
- Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned readings and films
- All course material will be posted to OWL. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and announced to the class
- Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. To evaluate your internet speed, click [here](#)
- For assistance, students can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#) or contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#) (phone: 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800)

## 5. Learning Outcomes

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



- Analyze how capitalism and colonialism intersect with climate change and climate action
- Discuss how theories of democracy inform efforts for social change
- Explain the rationale behind a variety of tactics for collective action, using historical examples
- Articulate a personal position on whether and under what conditions various tactics can be justified
- Demonstrate the intellectual, logistical and interpersonal skills needed to plan and execute a collective action on climate change
- Express compelling and well-supported arguments, orally and in writing

## 6. Course Content and Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings (access through OWL)	Reflection papers
1	Sep 13	Course overview	Guardian 2022	
2	Sep 20	System change I: Capitalism	Klein 2015 Adler 2015	One reflection
3	Sep 27	System change II: Colonialism	Coulthard 2013 LaDuke & Cowen 2020	
4	Oct 4	Big ideas I: Decarbonization vs Climate justice	Jaccard 2020 Timperley 2021	One reflection
5	Oct 11	Big ideas II: Democracy, freedom, responsibility	Taylor 2018 (film)	
6	Oct 18	Working within I: Politics and policies	Routledge et al 2018 OWF 2021 (video)	One reflection
7	Oct 25	Working within II: Divestment	Richardson 2017	
-	Nov 2	<b>Reading Week: no class, tutorial or readings</b>		
8	Nov 8	Direct action I: Blockades	Simpson 2021 McCreary 2020	One reflection
9	Nov 15	Direct action II: Sabotage	Malm 2021	
10	Nov 22	Prefigurative politics: Being the change	Yates 2015	One reflection
11	Nov 29	Swimming upstream I: Grief and frustration	McKay 2021 (film) Monbiot 2022	
12	Dec 6	Swimming upstream II: Hope and progress	Taylor 2021	



## 7. Communication



- Updates will be provided using OWL announcements. Please opt in to receiving OWL announcements by email
- Students are responsible for checking their **UWO e-mail address** in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO e-mail accounts [here](#)
- Instructor emails will be checked daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours

## 8. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any changes will be communicated. Detailed instructions on assignments will be provided separately.

Assessment	Weighting	Due Date
Reflection papers (5x4%)	20%	See schedule
In-class presentation	20%	TBD (one per week)
Collective action: group plan	10%	Week 4
Collective action: group report	20%	Week 10
Take-home exam	30%	December exam period

### Submission policy and late policy

- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- Assignments should be submitted online through OWL, on or before the due date
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- Students will have unlimited submissions to Turnitin up to the due date
- Late assessments without accommodation (see Section 9 below) will be subject to a late penalty of 5%/day



### Grading

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

**Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.**

## 9. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

### Academic Consideration for Student Absence

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these

matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities. Where medical documentation is required, the student must submit it directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office. A student seeking accommodation for work worth less than 10% does not need to provide medical documentation, but must contact the instructor.

#### Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students

#### Student Medical Certificate (SMC)

#### **Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

#### **10. Use of Electronic Devices**

The instructor proposes a laptop-free classroom environment during lectures, to be discussed with the class and a decision reached during Week 1.

#### **11. Continuity of Education Plan (in-person class pivoting to online learning)**

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the university to direct courses move away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

#### **12. Information on COVID-19**

##### **Masking Guidelines**

Students will be expected to wear triple layer, non-medical, paper masks at all times in the classroom as per University policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask must seek formal accommodation through Western Accessible Education, and present medical documentation.

Students are not permitted to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Dean, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

### **Course Absences due to Daily COVID Screening Questionnaire**

Missed assessments (e.g., presentations, papers) require formal academic considerations (see section 9). Students who demonstrate a pattern of routinely missing coursework due to self-reported COVID symptoms, and therefore do not demonstrate mastery of the learning outcomes of the course, will not receive credit for the course.]

### **13. Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

Required papers may be submitted for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database to help detect plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> ).

### **14. Western's Commitment to Accessibility**

The Department of Geography and Environment strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website.

More information about "Accessibility at Western" is available.

### **15. Mental Health**

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's Health and Wellness website for more information on mental health resources.

### **16. Support Services**

Western's Support Services  
Student Development Centre

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).