ATM S 111: Global Warming Summer 2010

Instructor: Jennifer K Fletcher
Office: 724 Atmospheric Sciences/Geophysics (ATG)
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 1-2:30 PM, or by appointment
Lectures: M-F, 10:50-11:50 AM, 227 Sieg Hall
Class Webpage: www.atmos.washington.edu/academics/classes/2010Q3/111/

Exam: Thursday, August 5, during class
Final Paper/Project: Due in class Friday, August 20 (first draft due Mon. Aug. 16)

Text: *The Rough Guide to Climate Change* 2nd edition, by Rob Henson, Rough Guides, 2008, available at the UW Bookstore. This short, nontechnical book summarizes the current scientific consensus.

Other resources: The class webpage will contain key facts and figures from the lectures, links to additional readings (many of which will be required), and links to useful information sources.

Resources for Students with Disabilities: to arrange accommodation for this and other classes, contact Disability Resources for Students in 448 Schmitz Hall. Website: http://www.washington.edu/students/drs/

Prerequisites
None. Open to all undergraduates. A working knowledge of high-school algebra and physical sciences will be useful; however, the basic tools needed for the course will be reviewed and practiced as they arise.

Academic Credit
This course provides 5 credits toward the Natural World requirement.

Course Structure
The first seven weeks of the quarter will focus on the science. The last two weeks of the quarter will focus on the social, political, and economic aspects of global warming. Monday through Thursday of each week will be largely devoted to lecture, with class discussions on Friday.

Homework
There will be homework assignments due in class every Tuesday and posted at least one week in advance. You are encouraged to work with classmates on the homework, but everyone must turn in their own copy. Late homework will not be accepted after 5 PM on the due date; however, the lowest homework score will be dropped from the final grade. One part of every homework assignment will require you to write down a question from that week's material. The question should be either about a concept that you don't feel you understand well enough or a concept that you would like to discuss more. These questions will frame that Friday's discussion section and will likely make an appearance on the exam.

Exam
The exam will comprehensively cover all material covered in the first seven weeks (the science portion) of the course. It will be held in class on Thursday, August 5. Make-ups will be allowed by extenuating circumstances only, at the instructor's discretion. You are much more likely to have a make-up approved if you contact me beforehand.

Final Paper
You will be required to write a 3 to 5-page (double spaced, 12 point font or smaller) paper critically analyzing a global warming-related topic of your choice. You may focus on a scientific, social, political, and/or economic aspect of global warming and its solutions. If you would like to do an alternative project, such as a class presentation or visual display, please see me with a proposal by August 13 at the latest. A first draft of your paper will be due on Monday, August 16, and your paper will be due in class on Friday, August 20. Late papers will not be accepted unless you have made prior arrangements to take an incomplete in the course.

Grading
Homework: 45%
Class participation: 15%
Exam: 20%
Final paper: 20%
Everyone's final grade will be optimized in the following way: the category you do best in will count an additional 10% toward your final grade, while the category you do worst in will count 10% less. For example, if your best score is the homework and worst score is the exam, homework will count toward 55% of your grade while the exam will only count toward 10%.