

# Thinking Globally: Climate in International Studies

INTL\_ST 201-0-1 / HISTORY 200-0-24

## Course Description:

The course introduces students to a new way of seeing and analyzing their world, one which sheds critical light on the global forces conditioning their lives and spaces. It opens a path to understanding the world based on the study of peoples, cultures and institutions that together shape our pasts and destinies beyond the limits of nation states. Students are introduced to diverse building blocks of international studies: a field that combines study of history, human sciences, law, and cultural analysis. Students in the course conduct guided applied research projects, in which they explore an issue, problem or conflict with the goal of developing an effective solution frame and plan of action.

Students explore various modes of thinking and researching with a global perspective. The focus is on the two key concepts of scale and scope. It engages critical thinking and thinking outside one's customary range of presumptions. Students will experience diverse modes of inquiry and appreciate the insight that comes from seeing things in different ways. This specific course examines climate as a critical lens in international studies, focusing on the intersections of environmental change, policy, justice, and global cooperation. Through seminars and workshops, students will engage with interdisciplinary perspectives on climate challenges and solutions.

## Learning Objectives:

### Recognizing Global Forces and Their Impacts

Articulate and critically analyze the global forces—such as cultural, historical, legal, and institutional factors—that shape human lives, spaces, and destinies beyond the limits of nation-states.

### Applying Interdisciplinary Perspectives to Global Challenges

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of interdisciplinary approaches, integrating history, human sciences, law, and cultural analysis, to examine critical global issues such as environmental change, policy, justice, and cooperation.

### Conducting Applied Research with a Global Scope

Design and execute guided applied research projects that investigate a global issue,

problem, or conflict, employing the key concepts of scale and scope to develop effective solution frameworks and actionable plans.

### Engaging in Diverse Modes of Inquiry and Critical Thinking

Explore and apply diverse modes of thinking and research, challenging customary presumptions to gain insights into global issues through a variety of lenses, including environmental and climate perspectives.

### Linking Climate and Justice in International Studies

Examine climate as a critical lens in international studies by analyzing the intersections of environmental change, justice, and global cooperation, while considering policy implications and ethical dimensions.

### Evaluating Theories and Policies in a Global Context

Develop the ability to critically evaluate theories, policies, and claims related to global systems and environmental challenges by assessing their assumptions, evidence, and applicability across different scales and contexts.

### Reflecting on Social and Environmental Justice

Reflect upon the role of interdisciplinary research and social science theories in addressing contemporary global issues, with a specific focus on climate justice and the pursuit of equitable solutions in international cooperation.