

PMU199H1F – Computing the Climate

Fall 2015

<http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~sme/PMU199-climate-computing>

General Information

Instructor:

Prof Steve Easterbrook, Bahen Center BA3259
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Seminars: Wednesdays 1pm-3pm, WE 74

Instructor's office hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 12pm in BA3259; other times by appointment

Recommended Texts

There is no set text for the course. However, I do recommend the following textbook for a good introduction to climate change:

- Andrew Dessler, [Introduction to Modern Climate Change](#), Cambridge University Press, 2012. ISBN: 1107001897

For more background on the science of climate change, take a look at these online resources:

- Ian Allison et al. The Copenhagen Diagnosis. Elsevier. Available free online at <http://www.copenhagendiagnosis.com/>
- The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report. Available free online at
- <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/> - See especially the Frequently Asked Questions

When searching for information on climate change on the web, be careful, as there is a lot of misinformation out there. We'll discuss why during the course, and talk about how to assess the reliability of what you find. The various pages on wikipedia relating to climate change are pretty good. I'll post other readings and pointers to websites as the course progresses.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites. The course does not require previous experience of programming (we won't be doing any programming on the course), nor of advanced mathematics or physics. However, I will rely on you all to let me know if you need me to cover more of the basic ideas for any of the topics we cover.

Attendance at Seminars

Attendance at Seminars is mandatory. A central component of this course focuses on communication skills. If you're not there to participate in the discussions, you can't practice these skills!

Communication & Email Policy

Please use seminars as your main opportunity to ask questions about the course. Major announcements will also be posted on the course website.

NOTE: I typically receive hundreds of emails a day. Feel free to send me questions by email between seminars, but I will provide answers or clarifications during the seminars, rather than by responding by email. I will **not** normally respond to email questions, unless it is an emergency. *Bear in mind that mail to me passes through a spam filter, and email sent to me from non-UofT addresses might not reach me. If you send me email, and I don't address your questions in the next seminar, please ask about it - I may have forgotten, or I may have not received the email.*

Assessment

The course grade has four components, as follows:

Task	%	Details	Drafts Due
Assignment 1	20%	PopSci article (1000 words)	Oct 14 Resubmit: Oct 21
Assignment 2	20%	PopSci article (1000 words)	Nov 4 Resubmit: Nov 11
Assignment 3	40%	Final essay	Nov 25 Resubmit: Dec 2
Class Participation	10% 10%	Class discussion & activities; Weekly reading reflections	Each Seminar

Course participation marks are as follows: 10% is for participating in activities and discussions during seminars; 10% is for submitting reading reflections. For reading reflections, you should bring to each class a written set of 3-4 bullet points on what you think are the most interesting ideas from that week's readings.

For all the assignments, you must submit by the first due date, otherwise late penalties will apply. We will be using a peer-review process to give you feedback on your assignment, so that you can improve it by the "resubmit" date. All due dates for the assignments are firm.

Assignments must be submitted electronically, by email, by midday (12pm) on the due date. Late penalties: 10% of your mark will be deducted for each 24 hour period of lateness after the due date. Extensions to assignment deadlines will only be granted in the case of documented medical emergencies. See <http://www.utoronto.ca/health/forms/forms.htm>

Please note that I will not answer any questions relating to assignments within the 24-hour period prior to the deadline. If you have questions about the grade your assignment received, please ask!

Academic Integrity

A key component of this course is an opportunity to practice and improve your communication skills. Trust your own ability to think and write, and make use of the resources available at U of T that can help you do so.

- Resources for improving writing skills are available at: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/>
- Resources for English as a second language: <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>.

Representing someone else's words as your own or submitting work that you have previously submitted for marks in another class are serious academic offences. Assignments will be reviewed for evidence of these infractions. Penalties for these offences can be severe and can be recorded on your transcript:

- Do not copy material word-for-word from any source (including lecture and study group notes) without placing the words within quotation marks and citing the author/source.
- Do not submit work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Do not make up sources or facts.
- Do not include references to sources that you did not use.

Ensure that all work you submit for credit is clearly your own work. Studying in groups is okay, but you should not work together on assignments that are supposed to be individual work. Giving each other comments and suggestions on written work is okay, but editing or re-writing each other's material is not.

If you need more information on what constitutes an academic offense, see the Office of Student Academic Integrity at: <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai>