

# PMU199H1F – Computing the Climate

Fall 2015

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

## Assignment 3

The final assignment for the course is to write a 1500 word essay, in response to **one** of the following questions:

1. Should we trust what a climate model tells us about the future?
2. Why do climate scientists need computational models to help them understand the climate system?
3. What is the single most important barrier preventing effective action on climate change?
4. How would we determine whether geo-engineering proposals would work as effective solutions to climate change?
5. George Box once said, “All models are wrong, but some are useful”. Discuss, with reference to the kinds of models used to reason about climate change.
6. Would an understanding of feedback loops help in in the process of framing policies on tackling climate change?
7. If politicians and policymakers could run climate models themselves, would it lead to better climate policy?

Your essay should consist of a clear, well-structured argument, with appropriate evidence used to support the points you are making. You may make full use of work you’ve done for previous assignments in this course to provide examples. Most importantly, your essay should demonstrate your ability to think critically about the ideas we’ve explored in this course, and to identify interesting and important issues.

Your essay should cite a minimum of three different sources to support your argument. Use the Chicago Style for formatting your references, with author-date as citation markers in the text (see [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)). If you used Wikipedia as a starting point for your research, list the Wikipedia pages you used, but note that these do not count towards your three cited works.

## Due dates

Submit by email by the following dates:

**Draft:** 12pm midday, November 25

**Final:** 12pm midday, December 2