PHIL3500 - Democracy, Economy and Global Warming
Course Outline

Course Coordinator  Colin Wilks
Semester             Semester 1 - 2010
Unit Weighting       10
Teaching Methods     Lecture

Brief Course Description
The course introduces students to the ethical, economic and socio-political issues arising from the environmental impact of both modern and modernising societies, with particular reference to climate change and global warming, and to the ethical, economic and socio-political issues that are being generated by our attempts to deal with global warming and its consequences.

Contact Hours
Lecture for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term

Course Objectives
(1) Impart to students an understanding of the main ethical and socio-political issues addressed and approaches taken by influential contributors to debates on environmental issues, and of the increasingly complex global economic and socio-political realities such debates often overlook.
(2) Impart to students critical skills for dealing with these issues and for assessing their own culture, societal life and their relation to the natural world.
(3) Develop high level written and oral skills in analysing and presenting issues in this area of philosophy.
(4) Develop a capacity to appreciate how ethics and philosophy inform their ways of life and attitudes to the world around them.

Course Content
The course covers the main ethical and political issues relating to global warming and climate change. After briefly surveying the empirical data relevant to global warming and climate change, in a way accessible to students from all disciplinary backgrounds, the course examines a range of competing ethical and political approaches to the plethora of problems posed by global warming.
Specific topics for discussion and analysis will include: Free Market and interventional economic mechanisms for lowering emissions, the role of consumers, consumer education and consumer power, implications for human rights, freedom and our freedom-loving way of life, and the challenges that dealing with the problem pose to our political system and to our understanding of democracy.

**Assessment Items**

| Essays / Written Assignments | 2 essays, each of 2,000 words, the first due around week 9, the second at the end of semester. (50% each) |

**Assumed Knowledge**

40 units in any subjects at any level.

**Callaghan Campus Timetable**

PHIL3500

Democracy, Economy and Global

Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science

Semester 1 – 2010

Lecture Monday 10:00 - 12:00 [V103]

**IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic integrity, honesty, and a respect for knowledge, truth and ethical practices are fundamental to the business of the University. These principles are at the core of all academic endeavour in teaching, learning and research. Dishonest practices contravene academic values, compromise the integrity of research and devalue the quality of learning. To preserve the quality of learning for the individual and others, the University may impose severe sanctions on activities that undermine academic integrity. There are two major categories of academic dishonesty:

**Academic fraud** is a form of academic dishonesty that involves making a false representation to gain an unjust advantage. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it can include:

a) falsification of data;

b) using a substitute person to undertake, in full or part, an examination or other assessment item;

c) reusing one’s own work, or part thereof, that has been submitted previously and counted towards another course (without permission);

d) making contact or colluding with another person, contrary to instructions, during an examination or other assessment item;

e) bringing material or device(s) into an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item; and

f) making use of computer software or other material and device(s) during an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item.

g) contract cheating or having another writer compete for tender to produce an essay or assignment and then submitting the work as one’s own.

**Plagiarism** is the presentation of the thoughts or works of another as one’s own. University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

a) copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;

b) using another person’s ideas without due acknowledgment;

c) collusion or working with others without permission, and presenting the resulting work as though it
were completed independently.

**Turnitin** is an electronic text matching system. During assessing any assessment item the University may:
- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a text matching service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

**RE-MARKS AND MODERATIONS**
Students can access the University's policy at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html)

**MARKS AND GRADES RELEASED DURING TERM**: All marks and grades released during term are indicative only until formally approved by the Head of School.

**SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING ASSESSMENT ITEMS**

*Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations* items must be submitted by the due date in the Course Outline unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension. Unapproved late submissions will be penalised in line with the University policy specified in **Late Penalty** (under student) at the link above.

Requests for **Extensions of Time** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item. This applies to students:
- applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or
- whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment.

Students must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, as outlined in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html)

*Note*: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

**Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:**
- Special Consideration Requests must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.
- Rescheduling Exam requests must be received no later than 10 working days prior the first date of the examination period.

*Late applications may not be accepted.* Students who cannot meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak firstly to their Program Officer or their Program Executive if studying in Singapore.

**STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS**

University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness. If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au. As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester. For more information on confidentiality and documentation visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website: [www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability).

**CHANGING YOUR ENROLMENT**
Students enrolled after the census dates listed in the link below are liable for the full cost of their student contribution or fees for that term.

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/fees/censusdates.html

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of term. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of term will result in a fail grade. **Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of term**, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs or with your Program Executive at PSB if you are a Singapore student. To check or change your enrolment online go to myHub: [https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au](https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au)

**STUDENT INFORMATION & CONTACTS**

**Various services are offered by the Student Support Unit:** [www.newcastle.edu.au/service/studentsupport/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/studentsupport/)

**The Student Hubs** are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students studying in Australia. Student Hubs are located at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Callaghan Campus</th>
<th>City Precinct</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Building</td>
<td>City Hub &amp; Information Common, University House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter Hub: Level 2, Student Services Centre</td>
<td>Central Coast Campus (Ourimbah)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Student Hub: Opposite the Main Cafeteria</td>
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**OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Faculty Websites**

**Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards**

**Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards**

**Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards**

**Dean of Students Office**
The Dean of Students and Deputy Dean of Students work to ensure that all students receive fair and equitable treatment at the University. In doing this they provide information and advice and help students resolve problems of an academic nature.


Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
Email: Dean-of-Students@newcastle.edu.au

**University Complaints Managers Office**
The University is committed to maintaining and enhancing fair, equitable and safe work practices and promoting positive relationships with its staff and students. There is a single system to deal with all types of complaints, ranging from minor administrative matters to more serious deeply held grievances concerning unfair, unjust or unreasonable behaviour.


Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
Email: Complaints@newcastle.edu.au

**General enquiries**

**Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie**
Phone: 02 4921 5000
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

**Ourimbah**
Phone: 02 4348 4030
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

**Campus Care**
The Campus Care program has been set up as a central point of enquiry for information, advice and support in managing inappropriate, concerning or threatening behaviour.


Phone: 02 4921 8600
Fax: 02 4921 7151
Email: campuscare@newcastle.edu.au
This course outline will not be altered after the second week of the term except under extenuating circumstances with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of the change.

Assessment Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>800-1000 words. <strong>Due March 22</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>2000 words. <strong>Due April 30</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Take Home Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>2000 words. Distributed in Week 13 or 14</td>
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**Seminar Paper**

Students will submit a seminar paper at the beginning of week 4 based on the classroom discussion for weeks 1-3.

**Seminar Paper Question:**

Is the issue of climate change as black and white as the term ‘climate sceptic’ suggests?

**Essay**

The essay question relates to the course content for weeks 3-7.

**Essay Question:**

If Global Warming is the serious problem it is made out to be, then why are we not taking more drastic steps to deal with it?

**Take-Home Exam**

The Take-Home Exam examines course content for weeks 8-12. More specific details will be made available in Week 13 of semester.

**Assessment Grading Criteria**

Grades in this course are not awarded simply on the basis of a student’s ability to provide a competent summary of the topics discussed in class or in the literature, but on the basis of the student’s abilities:

1. to distinguish between those aspects of the discussions which are more directly relevant to the discussion topic and those which are not (Pass – Credit).
2. to critically engage with the relevant subject matter discussed (Credit – Distinction).
3. to make relevant points and draw relevant conclusions beyond those which have been made and drawn in class (Distinction – High Distinction), and above all:
4. TO DEMONSTRATE THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT.
## Schedule of Discussion Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Discussion Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to Course</strong> – Living in Interesting Times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mar 8</td>
<td><strong>Background to the Climate Change Debate:</strong> Sceptics and Believers #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td><strong>Background to the Climate Change Debate:</strong> Sceptics and Believers #2</td>
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| 4    | Mar 22    | **The Abstract Nature of the Problem** Does it really matter what we (Australians) do in the greater scheme of things?  
*Seminar Paper due Today* |
| 5    | Mar 29    | **Facing Facts:** Our Addiction to Fossil Fuels  
Rights, Privileges and Expectations/Demographics and Destiny |
|      |           | **Mid-Semester break:** Friday 2\textsuperscript{nd} April to Friday 9\textsuperscript{th} April |
| 6    | April 12  | **The Global Financial Crisis:** Temporary Setback or Missed Opportunity?         |
| 7    | April 19  | ‘Pandermonium’ and Political Populism                                             |
| 8    | April 26  | ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY  
*Essay Due by Friday of this week* |
| 9    | May 3     | **Education:** part of the solution or part of the problem                         |
| 10   | May 10    | **Democracy:** part of the solution or part of the problem  
What are the attendant responsibilities of the democratic right to vote? |
| 11   | May 17    | **Government Intervention and/or the Greening of Capitalism**                   |
| 12   | May 24    | **Populate OR Perish or Populate AND Perish:**  
What if anything can we learn from the original Australians about the interesting times in which we are all living? |
| 13   | May 31    | **What have we learned about the interesting times in which we are living?**  
Review of course and discussion of Take Home Exam |