

**NRES 104: Climate in Crisis**  
**3 credit hours**  
**Spring 2012**

**Time:** Monday/Wednesday, 3:00 PM – 4:15 PM, Hardin Hall 163

**Instructor:** Crystal Bergman  
Phone: (402) 472-0825

Office: Hardin Hall 243A Section 3a  
Email: crystal.bergman@huskers.unl.edu (preferred)

**Office Hours:** Monday/Wednesday 1:00 PM –3:00 PM (or by appointment)

**Required Text:** *The Rough Guide to Climate Change* by Robert Henson, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (less than \$20)

**\*\*This course is ACE 9 Certified – *Exhibit global awareness or knowledge of human diversity through analysis of an issue (climate change)***

**Course Prerequisites:** There are no course prerequisites, just a desire to learn about climate change!

**Course Objectives:** Students completing this course will be able to:

1. Gain an understanding of the essential components of the Earth's system that are involved in climate change, as well as the feedbacks that link these components.
2. Critically evaluate the logic, evidence, and theories that underlie various hypotheses about the nature of climate change.
3. Discuss how climate change impacts many aspects of life on Earth.
4. Discover the tools of science used for observation, analysis and prediction.
5. Gain experience researching and presenting climate change issues, as well as learning about them from their peers.
6. Apply knowledge obtained in the course to make informed and scientifically-based decisions about personal roles and responsibilities as a human being who influences, and is influenced by, a globally changing climate.

**Course Ethics:** You are encouraged to learn and apply yourself in a way that promotes respect for yourself and others. Please turn off cell phones prior to entering the classroom. It is important that you respect other students and the instructor by refraining from any disruptive behavior. This includes talking other than during in-class discussions, reading newspapers or other non-class material, non-class use of laptop computers, playing games, sleeping, etc. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

**Academic Dishonesty:** The Student Honor Code as stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin will be followed:

- Any student found cheating on a test will receive a zero on the test, and may be given an F for the course. A student found cheating a second time (whether on a test or a homework assignment) will be given an F for the course.
- If a part of one student's homework assignment is a copy of another's, both students will be given no credit for that assignment. If either student has been found cheating in the course previously, he/she will fail the course.
- Any plagiarism, to take ideas, writings, etc. from others and pass them off as one's own, will result in no credit for that assignment.

**Class Attendance:** Attendance will be taken every class. A student who is considered present for class arrives on time and stays the entire class period. There is a well-documented correlation between grade performance and lecture attendance. Attendance will be factored into the final grade, especially if the student is on the borderline of two letter grades. If a student will miss a class period due to a university-sanctioned activity, it is required that the student: (1) identify himself/herself prior to missing the class period, (2) provide the instructor with a copy of his/her travel schedule, and (3) discuss with the instructor the procedure to make up missed work.

**Disability Statement:** Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion on their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

**Course Evaluation and Grading:** Three exams, several homework and in-class assignments, and a final oral presentation comprise the assessment of student performance in this course. There will be no final exam given during final exam week. The final oral presentation topic will focus on a regional societal impact of climate change, covering areas such as vulnerability, resilience, and adaptation.

**Penalty for Late Work:** If an assignment is submitted within one day of the due date and time, there will be a 10% reduction in the grade. If it is two days late, the grade will be reduced by 25%, and if it is three days late, the grade will be reduced by 50%. The instructor will provide feedback on assignments that are submitted more than three days late, but no credit will be received.

<b>Component:</b>	<b>% of final grade</b>
1) Exams	60% (3 @ 20% each)
2) Homework and in-class activities	20%
3) Oral Presentation	<u>20%</u>
	100%

**Grading:**

<u>Points</u>	<u>Letter</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Letter</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Letter</u>
97 – 100	A+	87 – 89	B+	77 – 79	C+
93 – 96	A	83 – 86	B	73 – 76	C
90 – 92	A-	80 – 82	B-	70 – 72	C-
67 – 69	D+	< 60	F		
63 – 66	D				
60 – 62	D-				

**Incompletes and Pass/Fail:**

Final grades of Incomplete (I) are rarely given and only under unusual circumstances. Use the guidelines found in your University Schedule of Classes for this semester. An incomplete can only be given "if the student has already substantially completed the major requirements of the course." --Note, this procedure is NOT available for any student unless he/she has a passing average of "C" or higher at the time he/she requests the Incomplete. Regarding Pass/Fail, a "P" is interpreted to mean a grade of "C" or

above. A grade of "C-" is a grade of "F".

**Makeup Exams:** Makeup exams are only permitted if the student provides written documentation of an excused absence (e.g. medical issue or illness, death in family, school-related travel, etc.) If a student misses an exam without prior arrangement or cannot provide written documentation of an excused absence, then the exam cannot be made up and a grade of zero will be given.