

Critical Political Economy Perspectives of Climate Change

December 2022

Unit director:

Dr. Oscar Berglund

Oscar.Berglund@bristol.ac.uk

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/people/person/oscar-j-berglund/>

AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Critical Political Economy Perspectives of Climate Change will get students to explore the political and economic obstacles to addressing climate change, as well as political agency that seeks to overcome those obstacles. We will first address the basic science of climate change, its effects and what drives it. We then turn to look at the international policy context and climate justice. We then turn to look at some of the systemic obstacles to action on climate change and how social movements engage with those obstacles.

Aims

To understand the scale of the climate emergency and climate justice

To explore the political economic context of climate change and the obstacles to action

To understand how climate change is being addressed, both through political institutions and through protest

Ultimately the unit aims to let students explore how they can contribute to addressing the climate emergency.

Intended learning outcomes

By the end of the unit students will be able to:

- Critically assess how different people, groups, institutions and countries contribute to and are affected by the climate emergency.
- Critically evaluate the systemic obstacles to action on climate change
- Identify actors seeking to address climate change and evaluate their contribution to addressing the climate emergency.

SCHEDULE

Day & Date	Topic	Essential reading
Monday 12 December, Morning	Climate Governance & Climate Justice	Sultana, F. (2021) 'Critical Climate Justice', <i>The Geographical Journal</i> , https://doi.org/10.1111/geoj.12417
Monday 12 December, Afternoon	Denial, delay and the fossil fuel industry	Brock, A. (2020) "Frack off": Towards an anarchist political ecology critique of corporate and state responses to anti-fracking resistance in the UK', <i>Political Geography</i> . https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2020.102246
Tuesday 13 December, Morning	Climate Change & Capitalism	Buch-Hansen, H. & Carstensen, MB. (2021) 'Paradigms and the political economy of ecopolitical projects: Green growth and degrowth compared', <i>Competition & Change</i> , 25(3-4):308-327. https://doi.org/10.1177/1024529420987528
Wednesday 14 December, Afternoon	Can We Afford to Save the World?	Pettifor, A. (2019) <i>The Case for a Green New Deal</i> , Verso. Chapters 4 & 5.
Thursday, 15 December, Morning	Direct Action & Civil Disobedience	Berglund, O. & Schmidt, D. (2020) <i>Extinction Rebellion and Climate Change Activism</i> , Palgrave. Chapters 1, 3 and 7.
Friday, 16 December, Morning	Contemporary climate activism	Schlosberg, D. (2019) 'From postmaterialism to sustainable materialism: the environmental politics of practice-based movements', <i>Environmental Politics</i> , https://doi.org/10.1080/09644016.2019.1587215

ASSESSMENT

The assessment in this class will be a seminar presentation. If for whatever reason you are unable to complete this task, there will be an alternative. Questions for the presentations will be set nearer that time and communicated to students.