

ENVI312: Interdisciplinary Aspects of Climate Change

What are the causes of climate change?

**What impacts is climate change already causing
– and how much worse will it get?**

What can we all do about climate change?

These are questions that should concern us all – climate change impacts everyone both directly and indirectly.

At its core, climate change is a simple problem – too much greenhouse gas is being emitted – but understanding the resultant physical effects, impacts, and management options is fiendishly complex. In fact, climate change is often referred to as a ‘wicked problem’ – something with no single cause, and no single solution. Neither is there likely to be a point at which climate change is definitively ‘solved’.

For understanding and engaging with wicked problems such as climate change, an interdisciplinary approach is essential. ENVI312 follows this approach by providing multiple perspectives from across the Sciences, Humanities, Health Science and Commerce on what climate change means, why it is a problem, and most importantly, what we can do about it. ***As such, ENVI312 represents a vital learning opportunity for students of all disciplines, with direct relevance for many degree programmes as well as life beyond university.***

Paper structure

- 3 x lectures per week, with a different topic covered each week
- Topics vary from year to year. Alongside a basic introduction to the science of climate change itself, topics often covered include physical climate change impacts on water, biodiversity, agriculture and human health. In addition to these science-focused modules, ENVI312 emphasises the social considerations around climate change, such as the ethics of different adaptation options and political and legal approaches to the problem. Many topics also have a strong solutions focus, from energy production to climate finance and the responsibilities of private businesses.
- Assessment in ENVI312 is through a combination of group and individual coursework, plus a final exam. Throughout these there is an emphasis on integration across disciplines.

Pre-requisites and prior experience

- **This paper is open to students of all disciplines!**
- No prior study of climate change is necessary, and the formal pre-requisite is fairly generic: either ENVI111 or 108 points.
- The paper is included in the Science, Arts and Music schedules, so really is pitched at an accessible level for all.