



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Welcome to Anthropocene? Social view of the climate crisis - 53316

Last update 08-09-2023

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Sociology and Anthropology

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr Liron Shani

Coordinator Email: liron.shani@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Liron Shani

Course/Module description:

The climate problem is the most serious threat civilization has ever faced. We know today that the problem is man-made and that its repercussions are devastating thanks to the many years of work by researchers from numerous departments of exact sciences. But what does it mean in terms of social significance? What should human civilization know about it, how should it prepare for it, and how should it deal with it? These issues transcend the scientific and life sciences, necessitating consideration of ethical, political, cultural, social, economic, artistic, historical, and other factors. This course will present some of the social aspects of the climate crisis, with an emphasis on sociology and anthropology, but not only.

Course/Module aims:

That the student will recognize in this the social implications of the climate crisis
That the student be familiar with the approaches and theories of research in the humanities and social sciences on the climate crisis

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

At the end of this course, students will be able to link political, cultural and social processes to issues of climate, environment and natural disasters.

At the end of this course, students will be able to read and analyze academic papers

At the end of this course, students will analyze and critique various phenomena of climate change (historical and contemporary) in the tools, concepts and theories learned in the course.

Attendance requirements(%):

80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Synchronous lectures, asynchronous lectures, reading and analysis of articles, videos, audio clips, use of questionnaires and quizzes, guest lecturers, class discussion, Case study analysis, video creation

Course/Module Content:

1. Introduction - What is the climate crisis, what is the Anthropocene? And what does that have to do with the social sciences?
2. The Climate Crisis - A View from Givat Ram - A Guest Lecture by Dr. Jonathan Goldsmith
3. The social significance of the climate crisis
4. History of climate change - is it possible to learn from the past?
5. Climate change and the anthropocene - is this the most serious problem?
6. Consensus, trust, science and uncertainty.
7. The Politics of Denying the Climate Crisis -
8. Climate crisis and inequality
9. Is it possible to adapt to the climate crisis? How do you do that?
10. Ethnographic view of the climate crisis
11. The Global Politics of the Climate Crisis
12. Are there any positive effects of the climate crisis?
13. Israel and the climate crisis
14. So what now?

Required Reading:

On the course website

Additional Reading Material:

On the course website

Grading Scheme:

Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %
Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 80 %
Mid-terms exams 10 %

Additional information: