

## INT 500: CLIMATE CHANGE TEACHING TOOLS

### Summer Session 6 (2023)

Required text:

Kearns, Faith. 2021. *Getting to the Heart of Science Communication: A Guide to Effective Engagement*. Washington: Island Press.

Other articles to be posted as .pdfs or links.

**Instructor:** Dr. Lauren Azevedo-Schmidt, lauren.e.schmidt@maine.edu

#### **ONLINE OFFICE HOURS----**

Please use email as your primary way to contact me. I am available during business hours on weekdays for the duration of the course and strive to respond to email within 24 hours. I'm happy to set up an online Zoom meeting to speak to you one-on-one.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES----**

Designed for educators of all kinds! Whether you are a teacher, policy maker, research assistant, etc. we are all educators. This course is designed to enhance your knowledge and skills on different aspects of climate change. Over the 3-week course you will have the opportunity to create your own adventure, tying what you have learned back to your specific discipline, focus, or interests. Course themes may include skill-building in communicating climate science content across various pathways, to diverse learners, integrating climate data into educational modules, and local impacts of climate change. This course largely involves a period of online, asynchronous study and assignments. Attendance at a two-day synchronous, **online workshop is required on July 18-19**. Program for the workshop is available here:

<https://umaine.edu/summeruniversity/climate-change-workshop/>

#### **REMOTE LEARNING----**

Reliable access to high-speed internet service is required for success in this online course. The course is supported largely in BrightSpace, where all assignment guidelines and discussion forums will be posted. You can use Google products (Google Slides, Google Docs) for your writing reflections and projects, particularly since these promote collaborative work. The class is fast-paced, and your success depends on reading and engaging with the material and interacting with your instructors and peers in digital space.

Day	Topic(s)	Reading and Assignments
I. How did we get here?		
Jul 10	Introductions, Earth's Climate System	Reading (posted) Kearns, Ch 1 Discussion Board (DB #1) due
Jul 11	Climate Communication in Practice	Reading & media talk (posted) Kearns, Ch 2 DB #2 due
II. Tools for Teaching and Communicating Climate Change		
Jul 12	Just the Facts: When and How to Relate the Scientific Evidence	Kearns, Ch 3 DB #3 due
Jul 13	Relating to Each Other	Kearns, Ch 4 Assignment due: Leveraging Climate Data
Jul 14	Interactive Climate Data and Synthesis	DB #4 due Assignment due: En-ROADs synthesis
Jul 17	Workshop Preparation	Kearns, Ch 5-6 DB #5 due
Jul 18	Online Workshop: Day 1	9:00 AM - 4:30 PM E.S.T. on Zoom
Jul 19	Online Workshop: Day 2	9:00 AM - 4:30 PM E.S.T. on Zoom
Jul 20	Reflections, Project Brainstorm	<i>work with own source material</i> DB #6 due
III. Putting Tools Into Practice		
Jul 21	Climate Justice	Kearns, Ch 8 Assignment due: Project Proposal
Jul 24	Collective Care	Kearns, Ch 8-9 Reading (posted) DB #7 due
Jul 25	Our Teaching Practice	Kearns, Ch 10 Assignment due: All We Can Save reflection or classroom activity
Jul 26	Projects	work on projects
Jul 27	Projects	Projects due (post by Thurs 11:59 PM)
Jul 28	Reflections and Next Steps	

*\*The syllabus is a guideline for due dates, and I reserve the right to alter due dates as the course evolves. Changes will be clearly and promptly communicated but please always check announcements on BrightSpace.\**

## **Grading Plan----**

The final grade will be based on the standard percentages of 90-100 = A, 80-89= B. etc, with plus and minus grades used for borderline grades. Comments on your classmates' work are part of your participation grade, and an important learning tool.

### Discussion and Participation (100 points)

Engagement in the course is constructed around asynchronous discussion board posts (7 x 10 pts each) and participation in a two-day synchronous workshop (30 pts). Discussion topics are based upon the assigned readings, reflection on your teaching practice, and resources presented on BrightSpace and during the workshop. For each topic, you'll want to make an **initial post by 5 PM** on the assigned day, and then write 2 **responding posts** to your classmates by the end of the day (**11:59 PM**). Aim for 3 paragraphs per topic for discussion board posts.

As an alternative to up to two discussion board assignments, you will have the option during the first and third weeks of the class to join me for a live discussion (30-45 min) over Zoom.

### Class Participation

Your presence and participation helps determine the overall quality of the class experience online as it does in a face-to-face class. Your thoughtful comments in discussions and participation in the online synchronous workshop are a part of your evaluation. Participation in optional chats and thoughtful reactions to other students' postings are included in your reading lesson grades.

### Assignments (50 points)

One assignment is due each week on how you can implement the educational resources on climate change presented in the course (2 x 20 pts) and a project proposal (10 pts). Budget 4-10 hours to work on each of these.

### Project (50 points)

A project based on developing your own class activities, teaching unit, or resources for public engagement (e.g. slide deck, website, blog) will be your final assessment for the course. You can propose to collaborate with classmates in pairs or groups. We will discuss the project ideas in a discussion forum and you can team up for partnered projects.

### **Late Work Policy----**

As this is an intensive course with a semester's worth of material in a short period of time, shorter-term assignments that count for 10 points or less will not be accepted late. For more substantive writing assignments, late work will be one letter grade off for each day late. No work will be accepted after **11:59 PM Friday, July 28**.

### **[UNIVERSITY AND COURSE POLICIES]**

#### **COURSE SCHEDULE DISCLAIMER----**

In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities (due to COVID-19 or other long-term disruptions), the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within its programmed time frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

#### **INCLUSIVENESS----**

The University of Maine is dedicated to the goal of supporting an inclusive student body prepared to live and work in a global society. Our class will make every effort to respect, appreciate, and solicit input from the multiplicity of voices present in our society, regardless of class, gender, sexuality, disability, age, ethnicity, race, religion, and culture. All members of the U Maine community have value and bring unique perspectives worthy of consideration.

The University of Maine recognizes that it is located on Marsh Island in the homeland of Penobscot people, where issues of water and territorial rights, and encroachment upon sacred sites are ongoing. Penobscot homeland is connected to the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations—the Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Micmacs—through kinship, alliances, and diplomacy. The University also recognizes that the Penobscot Nation and the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations are distinct, sovereign, legal and political entities with their own powers of self-governance and self-determination.

#### **PREFERRED NAME/PRONOUN----**

I will respectfully honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of your preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY----**

Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University. Please see the University of Maine System's Academic Integrity Policy listed in the Board Policy Manual as Policy 314: <https://www.maine.edu/board-of-trustees/policy-manual/section-314/>

### **STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES----**

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Student Accessibility Services, 121 East Annex, 581.2319, as early as possible in the term. Students who have already been approved for accommodations by SAS and have a current accommodation letter should meet with me (the instructor of the course) privately as soon as possible.

### **OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS----**

The University of Maine recognizes that when students are observing significant religious holidays, some may be unable to attend classes or labs, study, take tests, or work on other assignments. If they provide adequate notice (at least one week and longer if at all possible), these students are allowed to make up course requirements as long as this effort does not create an unreasonable burden upon the instructor, department or University. At the discretion of the instructor, such coursework could be due before or after the examination or assignment. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to a student's grade for the examination, study, or course requirement on the day of religious observance. The student shall not be marked absent from the class due to observing a significant religious holiday. In the case of an internship or clinical, students should refer to the applicable policy in place by the employer or site.

### **SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION REPORTING----**

The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell a teacher about an experience of **sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct or any form of gender discrimination** involving members of the campus, **your teacher is required to report** this information to Title IX Student Services or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

**If you want to talk in confidence** to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

For *confidential resources on campus*: **Counseling Center: 207-581-1392** or **Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000**.

For *confidential resources off campus*: **Rape Response Services: 1-800-871-7741** or **Partners for Peace: 1-800-863-9909**.

**Other resources:** The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help:

For *support services on campus*: **Title IX Student Services: 207-581-1406**, **Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409**, **University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040** or **911**. Or [see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services](#).

### **MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES----**

We are more isolated than we're used to due to an ongoing pandemic, with severe health, financial, and economic impacts on our families and communities. Please be aware of the following resources, and (graduates) consider sharing with your own students.

Medical and mental health contacts, as well as distress techniques, are available through U Maine's Counseling Center:

<https://umaine.edu/counseling/need-urgent-help/>

Below are crisis lines from the Department of Health and Human Services with the State of Maine. This includes the statewide crisis hotline, National Alliance on Mental Illness resources, and addiction support.

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/about/contact/hotlines>

### **UNIVERSITY OF MAINE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS----**

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. The virus is transmitted person-to-person through respiratory droplets that are expelled when breathing, talking, eating, coughing, or sneezing. Additionally, the virus is stable on surfaces and can be transmitted when someone touches a contaminated surface and transfers the virus to their nose or mouth. When someone becomes infected with COVID-19 they may either have no symptoms or symptoms that range from mild to severe and can even be fatal. During this global pandemic, it is imperative that all students, faculty, and staff abide by the safety protocols and guidelines set forth by the University to ensure the safety of our campus. All students are encouraged to make the Black Bear Cares Pact to protect the health of themselves, the health of others, and the College of Our Hearts Always.

**Black Bears Care Pact:** <https://umaine.edu/return/black-bears-care/>

**Symptom checking:** The symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe, and even people with mild symptoms may transmit the virus to others. Students are encouraged to use the symptom checking app each day before attending class or moving about campus and follow the recommendation prompted within the app. Students should monitor for the following symptoms daily: fever (temperature >100.4F/38.0C) or chills, new cough, loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath/difficult breathing, sore throat, diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting, or the onset of new, otherwise unexplained symptoms such as headache, muscle or body aches, fatigue, or congestion/runny nose.

**Physical distancing:** Students need to make every effort to maintain physical distancing (6 feet or more) indoors and outdoors including within classrooms. The University classrooms and physical spaces have been arranged to maximize physical distancing. Follow the traffic patterns outlined in each building and outdoor space to avoid crowding. If students are in an academic setting (i.e. clinical or lab class) that requires them to reduce physical distancing, they should follow the instructor's guidelines.

**Face coverings:** Students must wear appropriate face coverings in the classroom. Face coverings must be worn in indoor and outdoor spaces on campus unless people are alone in a room with a door closed or when they are properly physically distanced and do not expect someone to approach them. When face coverings are removed people are placing themselves and those surrounding them at increased risk for COVID-19.

**Eating and drinking in classrooms:** Students may not eat or drink in the classrooms and are encouraged to take their food or drink into areas designated for these purposes where they can maintain 6 feet physical distance from others.

**Hand hygiene:** Proper hand hygiene is an effective measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Students should wash their hands often with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, especially after using the bathroom, before eating or drinking, and before and after going to class or university spaces such as the recreation center, library, or dining halls.

**Contingency plans:** Classes will be held in various formats to offer flexibility, compassion, and empathy during these unprecedented times. Under certain circumstances, students or instructors may need to miss classes or in-person

classes may be disrupted. Students are expected to notify their instructor if they are unable to attend an in-person or online class but will not be penalized for missing class due to illness or the need to care for a family member affected by COVID-19. If a disruption occurs, your instructor will provide communication and contingency plans.

**What to do if you have or suspect you have COVID-19:** If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been possibly exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should stay home, not interact with others, and contact your health care provider immediately to be tested for COVID-19. You may not attend in-person classes and should suspend interactions with others until you are tested. Prior to receiving test results you should quarantine in your living area according to the Maine CDC guidelines below. Please follow the guidance of your health care professional regarding testing, quarantine, and isolation during the testing process and potential illness period.

**What to do if someone you know has or may have COVID-19:** If someone you know or that you have had close contact with (defined by the ME CDC as 15 mins or more within 6 feet or less) has tested positive for COVID-19, you should stay home and quarantine according to the guidance of the ME CDC, contact your health care provider, and continue to monitor for symptoms. You may be required to quarantine and/or be tested for COVID-19 under these circumstances. You may also have been exposed to COVID-19 by someone you do not know, and it is possible that you could be contacted through contact tracing to determine if you were exposed. Everyone should respond to these confidential questions to ensure the safety of themselves and those around them.

**Maine CDC guidelines:** <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus/general-information.shtml>

**If you have questions or would like additional information related to the University of Maine COVID-19-specific policies or procedures please use the following sources:**

University Webpages: [umaine.edu/return](https://umaine.edu/return) and [together.maine.edu](https://together.maine.edu) COVID-19 Information line: 207.581.2681

Emergency Operations Center Email Contact: [umaine.alerts@maine.edu](mailto:umaine.alerts@maine.edu)