Global environmental negotiations

This class is a partnership with Michigan Tech University, Boston University, Colorado College, Moravian College, Indiana University, University of Connecticut, Vanderbilt University, University of Derby, UK, Monash University, Australia.

SYNCHRONOUS CLASS TIMES: 1-2PM MOUNTAIN TIME. Joint Universities for live times: Colorado College, Michigan Tech University. All other institutions will be partnering through the virtual student teams and with modules hosted by different institutions.

Zoom link:

Meeting ID: 937 1176 3360 Password: 137164

All classes are recorded and uploaded into Slack to be shared among all partner institutions.

Objectives. By the end of this class, students will be able to:

- Link together, cultural connections, sustainability, economics and development, and natural resources topics with international negotiations on climate issues;
- Develop team projects with students from participating institutions by working remotely and in person on international environmental topics;
- Understand the process of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
- Articulate science topics to an international audience consisting of policy makers and stakeholders;
- Demonstrate understanding of the negotiation process, the Paris Agreement and associated negotiations;
- Participate in inter-institutional teams in the Global Sustainability Conference hosted by University of Derby in December.

MODULE 1: The Framework of international negotiations

Module activity: Students learn about the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the different sections within the framework. Students will be introduced to the history of the UNFCCC, the Rio Conventions, the Montreal Protocol and others.

Module assignment: Students will be divided into teams that have members from different institutions. These teams will work together on the final project for the class. Choose a topic of interest under UNFCCC and complete short research on the current status of negotiations on that topic and what are the pressing issues for the upcoming COP.

Week 1
• Syllabus/introduction to classes (remote and in person). Online and in-person netiquette discussed.
• First in-class assignment: student introductions (remote link) and statements of interests in international negotiations

Week 2
• Lecture and discussion on Montreal Protocol and the Rio Conventions.

Week 3
• Loss, Damage and Adaptation. Continued discussion of different elements of the UNFCCC

Week 4
• Introduction of the team projects.

MODULE 2: Sustainable Development Goals
• Case studies: virtual teams finalized among institutions students choose SDGs and associated topics and find case study information to give short presentation on the positions.
• Guest lecture TBA

Week 5
Module activity: students choose topics and roles for side events and green zone events.

Module assignment: develop full outline of presentations following the retreat.

Week 6
• Lecture and discussion on science and policy—presenting to a policy maker audience.

Week 7
• Outlines of presentations for each student group.
• The IPCC 1.5 report and other matters.

Module 3: Sustainable Actions

Week 8
• Sustainability discussion: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
• Case studies: highlighting how SDGs move through UNFCCC
• Guest lecture TBA

**Week 9**

**Week 10**

• Lecture and discussion on positions of different country governments.

**Week 11**

**Module 6: Global Sustainability Conference.**

Practice of inter-institutional teams on presentations and posters

**Module 7: Concluding Surveys and course wrap up**

• Administer survey about COP experience (20 minutes)
• Informal discussion- What did you learn?