

**IDIS 290/ENVR 290 -- COP16: Environmental Justice on the International Stage
Fall Semester 2010**

Dr. Binford and Dr. Husic (in Cancun)

Fridays: 1:10 – 3:45 in PPHAC 338

Office Hours: (Brethren's House 302)

Mondays & Wednesday 9-12

By appointment

Phone: 610-861-1691; hbinford@moravian.edu

- I. **Course Description:** In fall 2009, Moravian College was accepted as an official civil society observer for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, allowing us to send a delegation to the annual Conference of the Parties (COP) negotiations. This year, COP 16 will take place in Cancun, Mexico from November 29 - December 10. This course will provide students with the background knowledge necessary before attending the conference itself from December 2 - 10. Attending such an event provides an unprecedented opportunity for Moravian College students to learn not only about the process of multilateral negotiations, but also the science, economics, and legal and environmental issues surrounding climate change as well. In addition, they will be able to hear diverse and global perspectives on the issues from the thousands of people who will attend this event.
Fee: \$875 (includes lodging); students are also responsible for their own airfare and meals.
- II. **Goals of Course:** Students will become familiar with the many interdisciplinary topics related to climate change, including the science, economics, legal and environmental issues. In addition, they will seek to understand the different international and multi-disciplinary perspectives that are represented at the United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC). Students will also have hands-on experience with global climate modeling and GIS software.
- III. **Instructional Materials:**
Readings will be on reserve for the class. In addition, there will be required online resources, global climate modeling software, lectures and films.
- IV. **Teaching Strategies:** The course will be conducted with a series of lectures, discussions, and class exercises based on the reading assignments, audio-visual materials, and other supplemental materials presented by the instructor.
- V. **Course Requirements:** Attendance is mandatory. For each unexcused absence, your overall grade for the class will be lowered by .25 (using a 4.0 scale). Excused absences include illness (doctor's note required) and family funeral (note from home or Student Services required). All other absences will be evaluated at the discretion of the instructor. Chronic lateness will not be tolerated, and will be reflected in the overall grade.
- VI. **Topics:**
Climate Change Science
Ecological and Carbon Footprints
Glaciers and Ice Sheets
Water Issues
Ocean Acidification
Agricultural Concerns (livestock, biofuels)
Impact on Peoples of the World
Deforestation (REDD+ & LULUCF)

Biodiversity
 Environmental Economics
 Global Population
 Global Climate Modeling
 Kyoto Protocol and the Copenhagen Treaty
 International Alliances (BASIC, ALBA, G-77, G-20)
 Civil Society: Friends of the Earth, Avaaz, 350.org and others

VII. Course Requirements:

Analytical research paper and reaction papers (30%)

- Each student will choose a particular area to become a “resident expert” in and attend sessions related to this topic and research documents and other materials. Informal interviews and discussions with other attendees in Cancun can also be an important source of information.
- A 10 to 12 page analytical paper, fully documented, on this topic area is due by November 19, 2010. Students are expected to present different international perspectives in their work.
- Students will be asked write a series of short papers reflecting on Western/non-western views on tackling climate change and other environmental issues.

Participation in Class Discussions, Attendance for Film Series and Lectures (20%)

- Participation in class discussions
- Attendance at events related to coursework: Lecture by Dr. Kricher (September 22), Convocation with Rob Gifford (September 23), “Taking Root” (October 19), “A Sea Change” (November 9)
- Students will be expected to maintain a journal throughout the semester relating to current events and topics relating to the course

Participation at COP 16 (30%)

- Attendance at COP16 plenaries and side events, including climate-related events at alternative sites and the various museums and art galleries in Cancun as appropriate;
- Participation in group discussions (in person, via email, or through the blog site);
- Participation in other scheduled events such as the mock negotiations and the panel discussion on campus.

Reaction paper (20%)

- Preparation of an approximately 3 - 5 page paper giving a personal reaction to the experience of attending COP16 and the related events, the official negotiations process, the role of civil society, NGOs, and activists in addressing climate change issues, and the outcomes of COP16.
- Students will provide a listing of the events they attended with specific reference to this reaction paper (with titles, presenter names, etc.)

VIII. Grading:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 90% or greater: | A |
| 80 – 89%: | B |
| 70 – 79% | C |
| 60 – 69% | D |
| < 60% | F |