

Proposal: 'Climate Change'

Anthropogenic climate change has emerged as *the* global issue of the 21st-century. Although it presents a clear existential threat to human civilization, not to mention millions of non-human species, and indeed the very ecosystemic integrity of the planet itself, social theory has been slow to address the social characteristics and ramifications of climate change. In helping to redress this oversight, this course seeks to explore a series of interlocking topics, including: the roots of the present crisis in the consolidation of 'fossil capital' and the modern techno-scientific world-view; possible effects of global warming (rising sea-levels, habitat destruction, agricultural collapse, mass migration, war), and how they might be assessed and mitigated; questions of environmental ethics and the emergence of such activist movements as Extinction Rebellion; different ways of conceptualizing human/nature relations (indigenous, feminist, 'alter-modern', etc.); cultural perceptions of climate change, including climate denialism and 'climate trauma'; the 'Anthropocene' vs. 'Capitalocene' debate; and approaches that connect climate breakdown to intensifying social inequalities and the rising danger of neo-fascism(s) (including 'eco-fascism'), such as arguments for transitioning to a post-carbon economy, prospects for a 'Green New Deal', and so on.

Assessment template

Class presentation	25%
Class participation	15%
Term paper	60%

Possible sources

Ian Angus, *Facing the Anthropocene: Fossil Capitalism and the Crisis of the Earth System*, 2016
Aaron Bastani, *Fully Automated Luxury Communism*, 2018
James Bridle, *New Dark Age: Technology and the End of the Future*, 2018
Sean Cubitt, *Finite Media: Environmental Implications of Digital Technologies*, 2016
Rebecca Elliott, 'Sociology of Climate Change as a Sociology of Loss', 2019
Extinction Rebellion, *This Is Not a Drill: An Extinction Rebellion Handbook*, 2019
Anthony Giddens, *The Politics of Climate Change*, 2009
Clive Hamilton, *The Anthropocene and the Global Environmental Crisis: Rethinking Modernity in a New Epoch*, 2015
Kirsten Hastrup, *The Social Life of Climate Change Models: Anticipating Nature*, 2012
E Ann Kaplan, *Climate Trauma: Foreseeing the Future in Dystopian Film and Fiction*, 2015
Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate*, 2015
Naomi Klein, *On Fire: The Burning Case for a Green New Deal*, 2019
Bruno Latour, *Down to Earth: Politics in the New Climatic Regime*, 2017
James R. Lee, *Climate Change and Armed Conflict: Hot and Cold Wars*, 2009
Andreas Malm, *Fossil Capital: The Rise of Steam Power and the Roots of Global Warming*, 2016
Andreas Malm, *The Progress of this Storm: Nature and Society in a Warming World*, 2017
John Robert McNeill, *The Great Acceleration: An Environmental History of the Anthropocene Since 1945*, 2015

Jason W Moore (ed.), *Anthropocene or Capitalocene: Nature, History and the Crisis of Capitalism*, 2016

Jason W Moore, *Capitalism in the Web of Life: Ecology and the Accumulation of Capital*, 2015

Kari Marie Norgaard, 'The Sociological Imagination in a Time of Climate Change', 2018

Adrian Parr, *The Wrath of Capital: Neoliberalism and Climate Change*, 2012

Anna Tsing, *The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins*, 2015

Anna Tsing et al. (eds.), *Arts of Living on a Damaged Planet: Ghosts and Monsters of the Anthropocene*, 2017

Mckenzie Wark, 'New Knowledge for a New Planet: Critical Pedagogy for the Anthropocene', 2016