**Course Syllabus**

**UN5990- Climate Science & Policy 2015**

**College of Science and Arts**

**Fall 2015**

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**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Professor Sarah A. Green  
Office Location: 205 Great Lakes Research Center (GLRC)  
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E-mail: sgreen@mtu.edu  
Office Hours: MW 10:00am – 12:00pm or by appointment

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**Course Identification**

Course Number: UN5990  
Course Name: Climate Science & Policy 2015  
Course Location: 211 Chem Sci  
Class Times: W 4:05 pm – 4:55 pm  
Prerequisites: none

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**Course Description/Overview**

The 21st Conference of the Parties, COP21, will take place in December 2015 in Paris with the goal of reaching a universal agreement to limit global climate change. This one-time course will discuss science and policy topics relevant to the COP meeting and follow real time news during the “Road to Paris.” It will briefly cover the basic science of climate change and the history of climate policy. Additional specific topics will be guided by the interests of the class and current events; topics may include an analysis of the commitments and outcomes of previous climate agreements, United States and global energy policies, who's who in the negotiations, analysis of current "Intended Nationally Determined Contributions" and the "emissions gap,” climate finance, climate myths and communication, translation of science into policy, mitigation and adaptation strategies, and the roles of non-governmental, religious, and activist organizations in shaping climate policy.

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**Course Learning Objectives**

Students will:

1. Gain an understanding of basic climate science and policy issues and their intersections.

2. Learn to critically assess media reports on climate and climate policy.
3. Engage in effective discussions of climate topics Lead and summarize discussions.

**Course Resources**

**Course Website**
- Canvas <http://www.courses.mtu.edu>

**Course Resources**

Students are expected to consult news media weekly for climate-related news. No textbook is required. Additional resources will be posted in Canvas.

**Course Schedule**

The schedule of topics will be determined in consultation with the class during the first week.

**Grading Scheme**

**Grading Policy**

Grades will be based on the following:

- Active participation in class discussions.
- Leading and summarizing one class discussion session on a topic of your choice.

**Course Policies**

All students are expected to participate in class discussions based on posted reading material and/or other resources, as well as personal expertise. Students are encouraged to consult any relevant resources, especially those that provide critiques or contrasting views.

Discussions will be open and respectful of all viewpoints. Constructive and polite criticism and debate is encouraged.

Discussions may also continue on-line, especially in response to related news events.

**University Policies**

Student work products (exams, essays, projects, etc.) may be used for purposes of university, program, or course assessment. All work used for assessment purposes will not include any individual student identification.

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