

It is Getting Hot in Here: The Politics & Science of Climate Change First Year Experience Course, Fall 2016

Liberal Arts Workshop | January 2018



Rebecca Barnes & Elizabeth Coggins

So you want to teach an interdisciplinary a course?

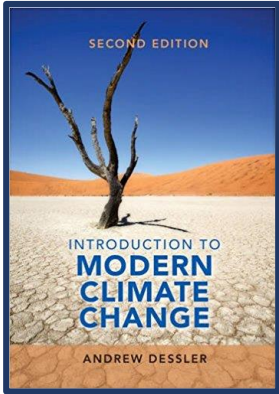
1. Are you sure?
2. Find a friend
3. Pick an interesting question or problem
4. Plan in chunks
5. Create projects that draw from multiple disciplines & address the interesting question

Bonus Pro tip: Check the events calendar

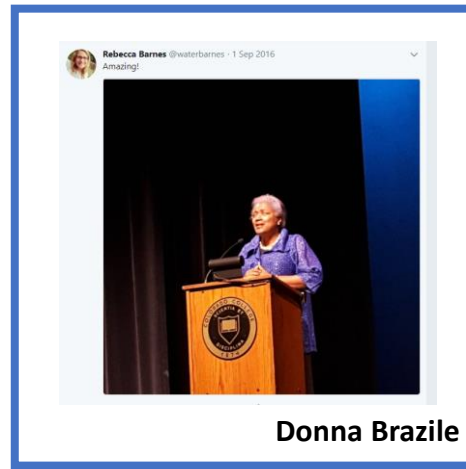


Block 1

Week 1 Earth's Radiation Balance



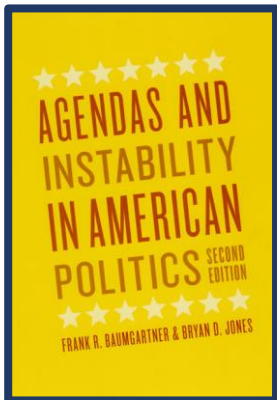
How does climate work?



Donna Brazile

Sondermann Presidential Symposium

Week 2 Policy Making



How are policies made?

Climate Communication

Telling the Climate Change Story

Susan Joy Hassol, Director of Climate Communication



The science is clear that climate change poses a serious threat to life as we know it, yet the broader public has largely failed to grasp the urgency of action. To what can we attribute this communication failure, and what can we do about it? This talk will include current information on what Americans think about climate change. It will address problems with communication and offer high-level suggestions for improvement. It will address both what we say and how we say it, dealing with framing, psychological and cultural issues, and questions involving language. And it will point the way to a hopeful vision both for communicating more effectively and for tackling the climate challenge.

Susan Joy Hassol is a climate change communicator, analyst, and



Gwen Ifill

Block 1

Week 3 Sustainability

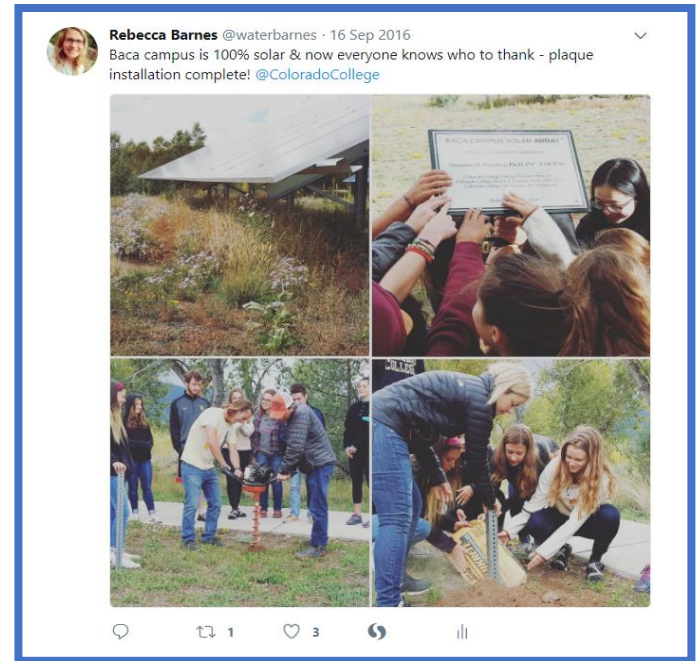
Baca Trip

Global Carbon Cycle

Guest Lecturer: Ian Johnson

Personal Carbon Footprint

3



Week 4 Three Prong Campaign: Commercial

4

Interest Group:
American Petroleum Institute



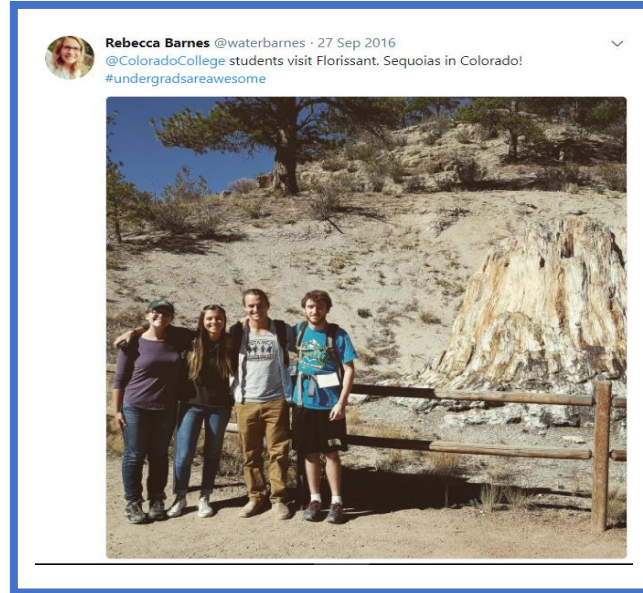
Block 2

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Paleoclimate

Icehouse Hothouse
Milankovitch Cycles
El Niño

Ancient Civilization & Climate



Field Trip: Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

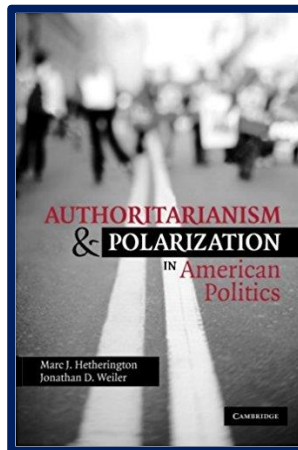
Sondermann Presidential Symposium



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Ideology & Public Opinion

Framing in Politics
Ideology
Public Opinion
Polarization



Block 2

Week 1: Climate Communication & Policymaking

Public Policy Making in Action

State Representatives Lee (D) & Roupe (R) visit with our class

Yale's Program on Climate Change Communication

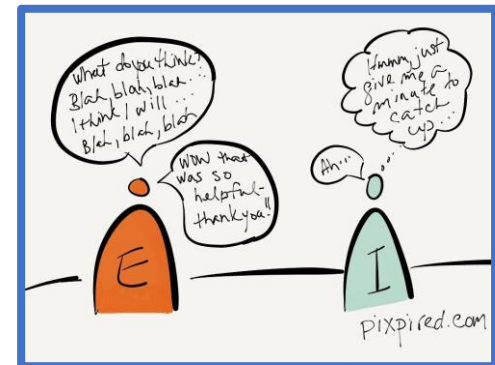
Jenn Marlon, Guest Lecturer

Week 2: Climate Negotiation

Personalities & Communication

Week 3

Week 4: Final Project: Campaign for Climate Change



Final Project:

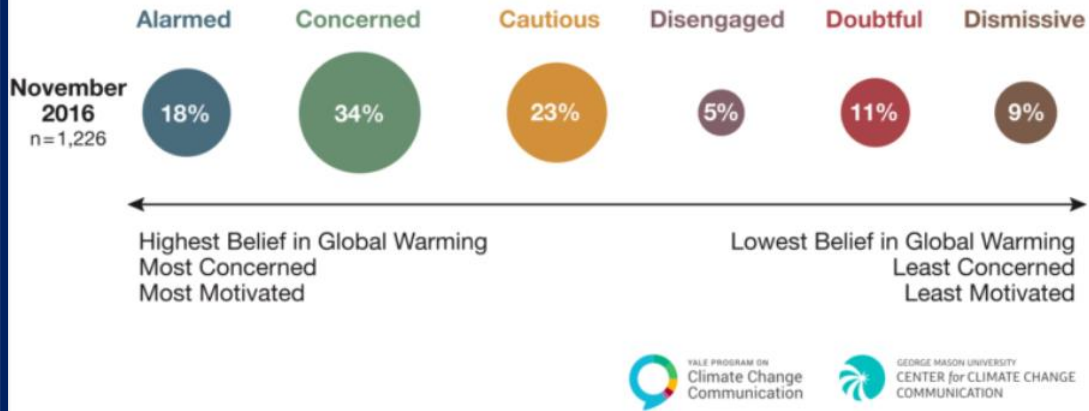
Campaign for Climate Change

1. Two **advertisements** reflecting the goals of your group's interest in climate change. Advertisements must address the "cautious" and "doubtful" portions of the American Public
2. An **editorial** for the *New York Times* explaining one relevant piece of climate change research
3. An **outreach program** targets at your assigned district or state that activates & involves citizenry
4. Develop a **strategy for lobbying** a national-level congress member from your district or state

Groups & Districts

- New Mexico, Congressional District 2 - *Clean Energy Action*
- Montana (at large) - *TerraPass*
- California, Congressional District 2 - *California Climate Action Registry*
- Colorado, Congressional District 1 - *Rocky Mountain Institute*
- Hawaii, Congressional District 1 - *350.org*
- North Dakota (at large) - *Citizen Climate Lobby*
- Utah, Congressional District 4 - *NRDC*
- Texas, Congressional District 28 - *Earth Justice*

Global Warming's Six Americas



32,000 RESIDENTS EVACUATED
250 HOUSES BURNED
18,000 ACRES DESTROYED
11.1 MILLION DOLLARS LOST

WILDFIRES WILL BECOME MORE FREQUENT AND SEVERE
SOME FIGHTS ARE TOO IMPORTANT TO LOSE

CHOOSE TO ACT
FIND OUT HOW AT NRDC.ORG

Utah's 4th Congressional District
NRDC
Cautious Group



California's 2nd Congressional District
Climate Registry

Doubtful Group



Utah's 4th Congressional District
NRDC

Doubtful Group