

ESR 173  
Global Climate Change  
30 Points

## ***The Global Variability of Climate Change: Place-based Impacts and Responses***

**Purpose:** This assignment allows students to examine how climate change is currently impacting, and will continue to impact, a country of their choosing. It is often relatively easy for us to recognize how local changes may impact us personally, but it often becomes more difficult to imagine how individuals and communities in other parts of the world will be impacted when faced with similar circumstances.

During the course of this project, students will get a chance to see climate change through a global perspective. They will learn about another culture, what that culture is currently losing, and what is at stake if climate continues to change at the current pace. The student presentations will expose students to many different cultures across the globe, hopefully bringing awareness to how our actions here in this country impact people on a global scale.

**Groups:** Students can choose to work alone, or in groups of up to 4 people. Working in groups is encouraged! Each student will submit a proposal that details their group members as well as the country they are choosing to research. Every group must choose a unique country.

### **Project Criteria:**

- Background information on country
  - *Location, climate, population, economy, literacy, etc.*
- How climate change is/will impact different sectors of your chosen country including:
  - *food systems, the economy, land use, culture, water, politics, etc.*
- Your country's contribution to climate change:
  - *What is the country's role in greenhouse gas emissions? What are their rates of deforestation? Are they actively working on reducing greenhouse gas emissions? What policies are in place surrounding climate change?*
- What your country is currently doing to prepare for the impacts of climate change:

- *Are they an island nation that needs to find a new home? Will they need to change the crops that have become staples in their diets? How will their economy change as climate continues to change? Does this country have the resources to adapt quickly enough to keep its culture in-tact?*
- Your country's stance (historically and currently) in the annual UN climate summits:
  - *Kyoto Protocol and the Paris summit are two of the most "famous", but there has been one every year*
- Anything else you think is relevant/interesting

### **The Finished Project:**

- Ideally this project would culminate with 10-minute long in-class presentations, however, since we are in a remote environment, we will be replacing these presentations with another creative method of information distribution that your group chooses
- Some great choices would be to create a video, use a powerpoint with voice-over on the slides, or use a powerpoint with videos embedded. Please avoid papers or powerpoints that are extremely wordy. These will be less interesting to share with your classmates. I am open to other creative ideas for finished projects as well, but please clear your ideas with me beforehand!
- Since groups are not actually presenting information live, your finished project will need to be stand-alone.
- You need to turn in a reference sheet in APA or MLA format
- All members must contribute to both the research and presentation

### **Project Sharing:**

- Projects will be shared via a google drive folder
- On presentation day, we will meet live via Zoom and we will view group presentations together as a class. This session will be recorded for students who are not able to attend live.
- Following the presentations, we will end with a discussion session about student take-aways from these projects. We will address patterns, highlight nations that are in the highest need for aid, and acknowledge our role as US citizens. Students that are not able to attend live can contribute to the discussion via D2L.

**Grading Guidelines:**

- Project Proposal 5 points
- Correct and Thorough Information 15 points
- Clarity and Organization 3 points
- Creativity and Design 2 points
- Reference List in MLA or APA 5 points

**Project Timeline:**

- Week 5: Introduce Project
- Week 6: Project Proposals Due
- Week 10: Final Projects Due, Group Discussion

**Optional Project Addendum:**

As an additional way for the students to share their new knowledge to a broader audience, student presentations could be combined into a video montage. Each student/group would choose 1-2 presentation slides that they think show the most important climate change impacts for the country they chose. With help from students, these presentation slides could be combined with music and turned into a 1-2 minute video that students could share with friends, family, or via social media.